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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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COMFORT.



PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with name de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

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6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

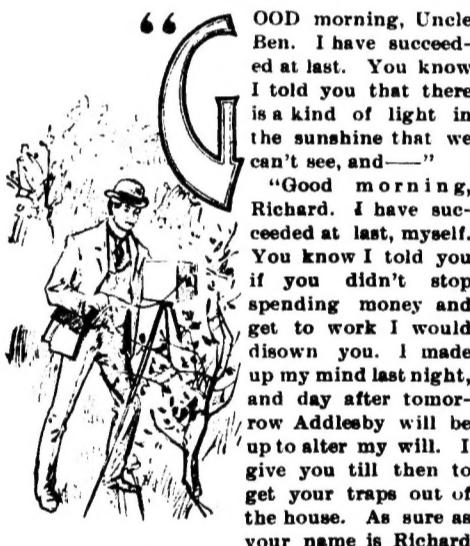
PRIZE WINNERS FOR MARCH.

Minnie W. Williams, First Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Second Prize.
E. B. Wilson, Third Prize.
Burton McPhail, Fourth Prize.
Annie Brasher, Fifth Prize.

THE INSANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MINNIE W. WILLIAMS.

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"Good morning, Uncle Ben. I have succeeded at last. You know I told you that there is a kind of light in the sunshine that we can't see, and—"

"Good morning, Richard. I have succeeded at last, myself. You know I told you if you didn't stop spending money and get to work I would disown you. I made up my mind last night, and day after tomorrow Addlesby will be up to alter my will. I give you till then to get your traps out of the house. As sure as your name is Richard Hovey you'll get to work then."

The younger man drew back a little as he understood that the threat he had often heard but never believed in had at last materialized. His face hardened and he nodded sharply and turned on his heel. At first his steps led toward the house, but under the influence of an idea he turned out of the front gate, walked rapidly down the street and entered a cosy-looking house on the door of which appeared a small sign, Albert Barlow, M. D.

The doctor was in his office, and after an exchange of courtesies with his visitor, which proved them well acquainted if not friends, Hovey made known the object of his errand.

"What are the requirements of the law regarding incarceration for insanity?" he asked, dropping almost immediately into business.

"Certificate of two reputable physicians," replied the M. D. "Why? Who is it?"

"My uncle."

"You don't say!"

"Isn't a trial necessary?"

"They have a hearing before the probate judge, of course, and the court must be convinced. Most weight is given the opinion of the physicians, though. What are your uncle's symptoms?"

"What would you say of a man who took a walk in the bright sunshine without a stitch of clothing on him, and an open umbrella without a cover carried carefully over his head?"

"That he was insane without a doubt. Has your uncle done that?"

"Would you have to see it to believe it, or would photographs convince you?"

"I don't know about the photographs. I would have to see them first."

"I will see you again, Doctor,—perhaps this evening."

"Won't you give me any more of the details?"

"Everything, next time I see you, Doctor. Good day!"

Hovey walked back to his uncle's house briskly, and an evil light shone in his eyes, which yet also shone with some trace of humor. The uncle had other reasons for disinheriting his nephew beyond those given. He

would not work—in the sense of seeking employment—because he thought there was no necessity for it when "the old man" had so much superfluous wealth. The real grievance was that he had fallen into evil ways, and was associated with a loose set of men whose gambling bouts were the least of their vices.

Yet despite his failings, Richard Hovey was a genius, and much of his time was spent in a disused part of the house which he had fitted up as a workshop. Thither he now repaired, and a few minutes later might have been seen, coat off and sleeves rolled up working in the light of a ruby lantern. A large camera lay on a table and from this he extracted a peculiar looking opaque lens which he inserted in an ordinary portable magazine camera. Then from a large sheet of cardboard painted with some glistening substance he cut a square and placed it in position in front of the lens.

"No," he said, communing with himself, "it had better go behind the lens, inside the camera, and out of the sunlight," and he suited the action to the word. Finally he removed the roll of film and replaced it with another which had been lying in a bell-jar under the action of some gas.

A park abutted on the block of houses of which Benjamin Hovey's was one, and in this park it was Mr. Hovey's habit to promenade twice a day. He was now stalking slowly along, his portly figure bent forward, and a worried frown on his face. Over one shoulder he bore a large silk umbrella, and in the free hand a cubical leather covered box, done in red Morocco leather, and bound with parallel strips of Russia iron. The box contained his private papers which he had been examining in the park.

Behind the fringe of shrubbery he might have seen his ingenuous nephew tip-toeing along with his camera, taking snap shots at every favorable opportunity. As he used the last end of film he chuckled to himself: "That leather box couldn't be better. It will look like a bird cage."

The dinner hour passed. Mr. Hovey wondered if his nephew would have the effrontery to come to dinner, and hoped he would not. There was no danger of it; safe in his dark room the inventor was developing his pictures, and as they flashed up he uttered shrieks of delight. To look over his shoulder one would have seen view after view of a portly gentleman clad in nothing but a long flowing beard, walking with ponderous step along the driveway. In the background were the fountain, grottoes, and the brick summer house, which served to identify the locality. Over his shoulder the nude figure carried an umbrella with ribs extended, but without a vestige of cover. From two fingers of one hand, suspended by its ring, hung a square object which looked just as the inventor had predicted, like a bird cage.

Several of these pictures young Mr. Hovey rejected, muttering once, "That would give the whole snap away." These he left on a shelf just over the sink, while he proceeded to print and mount the ones that he had chosen as best suited to his purpose. With a half dozen of these he hurried down to Dr. Barlow's, and finding the physician still at home, displayed them and asked if they were enough to satisfy him of the elder Hovey's insanity.

Barlow examined the pictures with great interest and admitted unhesitatingly that there could be no doubt of the case. Yes, he would be willing to sign a certificate, and would appear before the probate judge if necessary—indeed would be glad to, as insane cases were always interesting.

Elated at his first success, the plotter sought out a second neighboring physician named Cole. Dr. Cole exhibited great interest in the pictures, but he began to ask awkward questions. "You say these were taken in the early morning?" he inquired suspiciously, examining the shadows with care. Hovey repeated his assertion that it was early morning, before any one was astir in the park.

"He's carrying his watch and chain—and that looks like a bunch of keys just over his hip; see, they are visible in every picture!"

Hovey simulated great surprise, but explained the presence of these articles by supposing that his uncle, actuated by an insane freak, had tied them in place with string which they could not see. Dr. Cole dropped his head into his hand and began to think. He was something of a scientific experimenter besides being a successful physician, and some strange ideas began to fit through his brain.

The other broke in impatiently. "Well, are you willing to certify to his insanity?" he demanded.

"I have not yet seen the patient," answered the doctor.

"And you won't certify without seeing him? Well, sir, in that case I will not trouble you further. Good day," and Hovey gathered his curious photographs and took his departure.

"What do you think of that?" Dr. Cole asked himself as the door closed. "If I didn't know you, Mr. Hovey, I would think it very unusual. But since I do know of you and your ways, and your relations with your uncle, suspicion reaches well nigh to a certainty. I think I understand your little photographs, and while I don't sympathize with your game, I must admit that you have made a wonderful

scientific discovery. I wonder if I can't get some evidence to checkmate the schemer."

Richard Hovey was by this time well on his way in search of another physician. This time he experienced no trouble, and armed with the two certificates hurried to the court house. As it chanced he arrived after the hour of adjournment.

About midnight a man might have been seen to steal through the gloom across the grounds surrounding the Hovey mansion. He tried several of the windows in that part of the house where the workshop lay. One of these opened to his touch and he climbed in. His first act was to find the dark-room and light the ruby lantern, and the glow on his face showed him to be Dr. Cole. Immediately before him lay the negatives from which the pictures had been printed and these he examined in detail. Next he found the camera with its curious lens and screen, and these he studied with many repressed exclamations of wonder and admiration. Finally, continuing the search, he found the rejected negatives. Success at last! Hovey had rejected all his pictures that contained any other figures besides his uncle, and for the very good reason that these other figures were all naked too. Every picture that the doctor held up to the light contained besides the nude image of the elder Hovey, one or more persons in an equally insane state of undress!

The doctor slipped the negatives into a pocket and hurriedly escaped by the window through which he had made his burglarious entrance.

Mid-morning of the next day an officer, armed with an order to bring in the body of Benjamin Hovey, visited the residence and presented him, handcuffed as became a raving maniac, before the probate judge. The old gentleman was paralyzed with wonder and rage, but amazement was complete when his nephew, stating himself to be the nearest relative, requested the court to adjudge him insane and commit him to an asylum for treatment and safe-keeping. The certificate of the physicians was presented. The court asked for more specific evidence. Young Mr. Hovey told how his uncle was in the habit of parading about, clothesless and with the bare ribs of an umbrella outspread, and exhibited the photographs in corroboration.

The old gentleman sat through it all without saying a word, but there certainly was an insane look on his face. The veins on his forehead swelled instant by instant, and the red hue of his face changed to purple.

Just then the younger Hovey uttered a wild curse. A new comer had entered the court room. It was Dr. Cole, and in his hand he carried a number of photographs. "Your honor," he said, "I wish to be sworn as a witness. * * * In order to make myself clear I will have to explain that the X-rays are not obtained alone by electrical means, but that the sunshine itself contains these rays and other forms of radiation differing only slightly from them. Mr. Richard Hovey, nephew of the defendant, has made a momentous scientific discovery. He has discovered a means of screening or sifting the sunlight so as to select any kind of light he may want. With a camera arranged to take up the light which passes through all dry organic matter—like wool, cotton, silk and leather—he took numerous photographs of his uncle during a recent noon-day walk in the park. In support of this assertion I will exhibit some of the photographs which I have here. He has shown only those in which his uncle and other promenaders appeared, all equally bereft of clothing!" As he finished speaking, the doctor passed up the photographs.

There was a cry and young Hovey made a rush to capture the pictures. An officer caught him and jerked him back. Then he turned on his uncle. "What right have you to be, I want to know! Didn't I invent you? What right have you to was—to were—what right has been? Ha—ha—ha! Everything spins and I spin—was spinning—will was be—ha—ha!"

The elder Hovey had forgotten his unutterable rage and looked at his raving nephew in fright. Of the two doctors who had signed the certificate, one leaned over and tapped the other on the shoulder. "We made a mistake in the first name of the patient," he said; "we will have to change it."

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SAVED BY DEATH.

A TRUE STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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CANNON Ball Express rolled into the terminal station on schedule time at midnight, December 22, 1887, the fireman with his hand on the throttle, George Hastings, the engineer, missing.

John Brant, the fireman, was in a state bordering on nervous collapse when he stumbled out of the engine, and being unable to talk coherently, the conductor of the train came forward and told what he knew of the remarkable disappearance of the engineer a hundred miles out.

"We were running ahead of time," said the conductor, "passing a milestone every sixty seconds. Suddenly the air-brakes were applied and the engine reversed, and in less than thirty seconds the train had come to a stop. Brant was in much the state that he is now.

"George has fallen out of the engine," said he, when I came up to the engine.

"We all took our lanterns and went back over the road and searched for fifteen minutes, but there was not trace of Hastings to be found. If the earth had opened and swallowed him, he could not have disappeared more completely."

Weeks passed and nothing was heard or seen of the missing engineer. It was suggested that he had received an injury to his brain and that he had wandered away, unable to bring himself in touch with the world. Others, however, advanced the thought that the fireman knew more of the engineer's disappearance than he chose to tell. The police were of this opinion and a detective was put on the scent.

Detective Sergeant was the man assigned to the case and it was not long before he had learned much of John Brant's history, and the more he learned of it the greater was his bewilderment. Up to the moment that the engineer and fireman stepped into the cab that memorable night in December, the two men were apparently the best of friends. What reason was there for supposing that Brant had laid violent hands upon the engineer? And holding that he had done so, what opportunity had the fireman to make away with the engineer's body?

Fried Onions.

Indirectly Caused the Death of the World's Greatest General.

It is a matter of history that Napoleon was a gourmet, an inordinate lover of the good things of the table, and history further records that his favorite dish was fried onions; his death from cancer of stomach it is claimed also was probably caused from his excessive indulgence of this fondness for the odorous vegetable.

The onion is undoubtedly a wholesome article of food, in fact has many medicinal qualities of value, but it would be difficult to find a more indigestible article than fried onions, and to many people they are simply poison, but the onion does not stand alone in this respect. Any article of food that is not thoroughly digested becomes a source of disease and discomfort whether it be fried onions or beef steak.

The reason why any wholesome food is not promptly digested is because the stomach lacks some important element of digestion; some stomachs lack peptone, others are deficient in gastric juice, still others lack Hydrochloric acid.

The one thing necessary to do in any case of poor digestion is to supply those elements of digestion which the stomach lacks, and nothing does this so thoroughly and safely as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Dr. Richardson in writing a thesis on treatment of dyspepsia and indigestion, closes his remarks by saying, "for those suffering from acid dyspepsia, shown by sour, watery risings, or for flatulent dyspepsia shown by gas on stomach, causing heart trouble and difficult breathing, as well as for all other forms of stomach trouble, the safest treatment is to take one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after each meal. I advise them because they contain no harmful drugs, but are composed of valuable digestives, which act promptly upon the food eaten. I never knew a case of indigestion or even chronic dyspepsia which Stuart's Tablets would not reach."

Cheap cathartic medicines claiming to cure dyspepsia and indigestion can have no effect whatever in actively digesting the food and to call any cathartic medicine a cure for indigestion is a misnomer.

Every druggist in the United States and Canada sells Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, and they are not only the safest and most successful but the most scientific of any treatment for indigestion and stomach troubles.

SEND NO MONEY. This magnificent SOLID GOLD shell cluster ring, open center, surrounded by dazzling diamonds. Diamond size, 1/2 carat. Price, \$100. Send 10c for postpaid. Leopin Sachets at 10c. each. When sold, send me the money & I will receive this ring for your trouble. It is warranted to wear & is a perfect beauty. Also an additional handsome present. Free if you write to-day. Leopin Co. Dept. 210 St. Louis, Mo.

These questions troubled the detective and for a time remained unanswered.

Brant was still in the employ of the road, acting as fireman on the engine he had fired for years; the engineer, a man who had been advanced upon Hastings' disappearance. This engineer Detective Sargeant took into his confidence, and a suspicion which had crossed his mind he laid before him, a theory which caused Philip Ingalls to stare at the detective in horror and amazement.

One evening in the spring of the year, some four months after the disappearance of Hastings, the Cannon Ball Express started on its regular trip east. In the cab besides the fireman and engineer was a gentleman who knew a great deal about John Brant, yet of whom Brant knew nothing, the engineer merely introducing him as a friend who was anxious to make the trip on the engine.

The express was thundering along at a high rate of speed, a cloud of dust, smoke and cinders hovering about the train. The heat within the cab was terrific when the door to the firebox was open, which was most of the time. The engineer's hand was on the throttle, the detective (for as you have undoubtedly already guessed, the stranger was none other than he) standing directly behind him.

Suddenly the fireman dropped his shovel and staggered backward toward the tender. At the same instant a voice seemed to issue from the seething firebox, an agonized cry that wailed above the roar of the express.

"John! John!"

The detective sprang to the fireman's side, seized him by the arm and dragged him before the open door to the firebox.

"See! See!" he shouted, "a face, a face, do you not see it in the flames, man?"

Again the uncanny cry issued from the fierce fire. Every drop of blood receded from Brant's face leaving it ashen. The next instant he had swooned.

Having moved the prostrate form to one side, Engineer Ingalls bade the detective take his seat and keep a sharp watch while he took the fireman's place.

"Sir," said the detective, addressing the engineer while Brant was still unconscious, "that man killed Hastings and threw his body into the firebox. When as a ventriloquist I threw my voice into the fire and it seemed to him that one from the dead was beseeching him from the flames, his expression of horror and alarm was such as to have been capable of convincing the most skeptical. I have made no mistake. John Brant is the guilty man."

When the Cannon Ball Express arrived at its destination the detective, followed by the engineer, led the fireman to the room of the superintendent, who, though the hour was midnight, in accordance with the detective's wish was yet in his office.

"John Brant," said the detective, locking the door, "John Brant, you killed George Hastings and burned his body in the firebox of the engine."

For an instant the fireman stood before the men, his breath coming in gasps, the sweat standing out on his forehead in great drops.

"Yes, yes, I did kill him," cried Brant at last, "I killed him—but it was to save my train and the express we pass at the siding at Franklin."

"Be seated, Mr. Brant," said the superintendent, speaking kindly.

As the fireman took the proffered chair he drew a folded paper from his pocket.

"That night," said the fireman. "Hastings had been acting strangely from the time he stepped into the cab. Muttered something about the road not using him 'white', and that that night he was going to square things before he reached the city. At first I paid little attention to his talk. Finally, however, I noticed that he was urging the engine faster than was customary, and I asked him what he was trying to do.

"Do you see this map?" said Hastings, pointing to this piece of paper which he took from his pocket, "here is where we are now, John. Twenty miles ahead, here at this point is the Franklin siding, where we usually pass the express. I am going to pass the siding ahead of time to-night, John. The express will be coming as usual and we shall meet it somewhere between these two points, meet it, and then, then I shall be square with those who are trying to down me, John."

Speechless with astonishment the superintendent, detective and engineer stared at the fireman as he continued with his story.

"Then I understood that Hastings was indeed mad," said the fireman, passing his hand across his brow. "I attempted to reason with him, but nothing seemed to move him in the least. We were fast approaching the express and if I was to act I must act quickly. Hastings' eyes were fastened to the gleaming rails. I saw my opportunity and seized it. The shovel was in my hands, and before he was aware of my intention, I felled him with it. Like a log he dropped at my feet. I closed the throttle, applied the brakes, and the next instant reversed the engine. All this took less than ten seconds. One glance told me that Hastings was dead; I had struck him harder than I had intended, and there he was dead at my feet and I had murdered him."

"In an instant it flashed upon me that noth-

INFANTICIDE.

HOW CHILDREN ARE SENT TO DESTRUCTION.

Now and then some city paper contains the story of a case of child murder, which revolts and appalls the reader. The mother hugs her own darling close to her breast as she thinks of that little, white, cold body, with the marks of fiendish fingers on the throat. She kisses her baby passionately with all her life in her lips, ready to be spent for the helpless nursing she loves.

And yet just such a mother as this, devoted, tender, loving, may be responsible for a case of infanticide as pitiful as that other, though less terrible than it. These cases of child destruction are just as true, just as palpable to



science as if the mother had launched the boat to carry her child over the cataract to destruction.

WHAT MATERNITY MEANS,

is considered by women generally with relation to themselves rather than to their offspring. They do not stop to think that their physical and mental condition will stamp the coming infant, and that that infant's life will be a lifelong echo of the mother's moods and feelings during the pre-natal period. The mother owes it to the child to take care of herself. She should be comfortable in body and composed in mind. She should be free from nervousness and pain. She should eat well, sleep well and enjoy life without a moment's dread or anxiety for the future.

The majority of women would cry out that such a condition is impossible for them. They always suffer in the months of waiting. They always have nausea and headache. They are always fretful and nervous, and dread the time of travail which is to come. And the average woman thinks of these conditions as the debt which her sex must pay to Nature. But these conditions are unnatural. These aches, pains and sufferings are due to womanly diseases, and these diseases can be cured, and are being cured every day in the year.

"I am twenty-seven years old," writes Mrs. Euphemia Falconer, of Trent, Muskegon Co., Mich.; "I have been married ten years. I am the mother of four children. My first two babies were still-born, and I suffered everything but death. My friends all thought I could never recover. I was reduced to 109 pounds. When I was three months along for my third child I was taken with hemorrhage or flooding, and came near having a mishap from female weakness. For two months I was under the care of our doctor, but was getting weaker all the time until one day I happened to come across one of your little books, and I read it through, and the next day I sent and got three bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and one bottle of 'Pellets.' I improved so fast I continued to take your medicine until baby was born, and he is healthy and all right. He is four years old. My baby girl is two years old. My health has been good ever since. I now weigh 165 pounds."

WONDERFUL BUT TRUE.

The cures of womanly diseases performed by Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription are wonderful but true. It is wonderful that a woman who had not borne a living child should bear two healthy children as the result of the use of "Favorite Prescription." It is wonderful that from "suffering everything but death" at the birth hour a woman should find her time of travail made practically painless when "Favorite Prescription" had been taken in preparation for the event. It is wonderful that a condition of weakness and emaciation should be changed to a condition of health and heartiness, the greatness of that change being best expressed by the figures showing the increase in weight from 109 to 165 pounds. No figures could show the gain in happiness which comes with such a cure.

"Words can't express how grateful I am for your kind advice and good medicines," writes Mrs. Ada Brooks, of Kirbyville, Taney Co., Missouri. "I suffered for four years with what four physicians pronounced ulceration and prolapsus. Also inflammation of bladder and urethra. My case was chronic and complicated. When my first child was born (five years ago), I was in a very bad condition, suffering from bladder trouble. My health had been very poor for some time when I was taken down bed-fast. I was in a critical con-

dition for five months. Had several good physicians, but kept getting worse. Could not bear to be moved from my bed. I kept getting worse all the time. Had been confined to my bed five months when I wrote to you. I received your reply very soon and then dismissed my physician and began taking Dr. Pierce's medicines. I took eight bottles of his 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and I began to get better at once. In two months I could sit up in a chair and kept getting better. In four months could do all my house work, including washing and sewing. I think your medicines saved me from the grave, and I will recommend them to all suffering women. Several of my lady friends are taking your medicines with good effect."

DON'T STAY SICK.

There is nothing so useless as the unnecessary suffering of women from diseases peculiar to their sex. These diseases are absolutely and altogether curable by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. If there is irregularity of the periods the "Prescription" regulates them. If there are debilitating drains, they are dried up by the "Prescription." If there is inflammation or ulceration "Favorite Prescription" cures it, and just as surely cures female weakness, bearing down pains and other forms of feminine disorders.

That bare statement of plain facts fails to do the subject justice.

When it is barely said, "a woman has been cured of female weakness by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription," such a statement conveys no hint of the form rounding out into graceful curves; of the cheeks full and touched with the red tint of healthy blood; of the eyes bright and sparkling; of the whole body strong and healthy so that work is a blessing instead of a burden. Yet all these things do come to women cured of disease by the use of "Favorite Prescription."

Women suffering from disease in chronic form are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free. All correspondence is held in strictest privacy and treated as a sacred confidence.

For more than thirty years Dr. R. V. Pierce has been chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. In that time aided by his medical staff of nearly a score of physicians, he has treated and cured over half a million women. There is no other offer of free consultation by letter made by a specialist in the treatment and cure of women's diseases, such as is Dr. R. V. Pierce. Women who have found other advice and treatment ineffective should not fail to write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Favorite Prescription" contains no alcohol and is entirely free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics.

The dealer who offers a substitute medicine as "just as good" as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, cares less for the health of his customer than for the extra profit made on the sale of preparations of less merit. Insist on having the "Prescription" which has cured so many other women.

IS YOUR LIFE WORTH 21 PENNIES?

Just 21 pennies invested in one-cent stamps will pay the expense of mailing Dr. Pierce's great work, the Common Sense Medical Adviser. This book contains 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations. Its advice may save the life of wife, husband, or child in some crisis of disease. There is no charge for the book. It is sent absolutely free to any address on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the volume bound in paper covers, or 31 stamps for the book bound in cloth. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

ing stood between me and conviction on the charge of murder. The train was coming to a stop and inside of half a minute the train hands would be by the engine. Then in a moment of weakness, sirs, I thought to hide the crime, forgetting that the disappearance of Hastings would have to be accounted for. The door to the firebox was open and within was a terrible fire burning under the forced draft. Taking Hastings in my arms, I threw him upon the fire, closing the door to hide the horrible sight. Scarcely was the act accomplished when the train stopped and the hands ran ahead to the engine. Some story had to be told to satisfy the men and I told the first thing that came to mind—that Hastings had fallen out of the cab. Immediately a search was instituted and while this was going on, Hastings' body was burned to ashes."

Every word that the man uttered bore the stamp of truth and when the fireman had ceased speaking all three men sprang forward, grasping Brant's hands.

"Not a murderer, but a hero!" said the superintendent, laying his hand on the fireman's shoulder.

A few weeks later a vacancy was made on one of the through trains, the engineer being discharged for some infraction of the company's rules. Several trusted engineers sent in applications for promotion to his position, but already had the company made a choice. John Brant was the man named for the position and he is holding it to-day, one of the few men on the engineer's seat who have no black marks opposite their names.

THE PASSING OF POKER JACK.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. E. WILSON.

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IT you, Dick? And you are one of us? Raise my head a little so that I can see your face. That's right—now I can see it. Yes, you are the same old Dick, only a little older. Dear old fellow, it's good to have you with me at this time—to have my hand in yours once again. You'll stay with me 'till the end comes, won't you, Dick? Don't scold, please. Yes, I knew you'd not leave me, but I wanted to hear you say it—it'll be easier for me to go, having you with me.

"And what's the news from the front?—have we won? What's that?—you say the Spaniards are in retreat, and the hill is ours? And is the flag waving there? Hurrah for that! Raise me higher, old fellow, so that I can see it. (Ah-h-h! that Mauser did its work well, my strength's almost gone. No, don't curse the man that did it; he only did his duty, and I—and I welcome the death his bullet brought me.) Ah, there they are, the flags! Dick, it's a glorious sight! It's queer, the reverence one has for those bits of starry cloth. The boys'll keep them there, won't they, Dick? Yes, I knew they would; that's the kind of men they are. Now lay me back on the ground—I'm tired; my life is going fast and I want to talk of other things.

"You ask why I want to die? That is what I want to tell you about, and your question carries me right to where I must begin—back to the time when you and I were partners—wild young devils—down there in Mexico. Dick, you knew her—Dolores, my wife, I mean. Hush! don't say a word; I know you loved her too, and it would have been far better had she loved you instead of me. Poor old fellow! I remember as though it were but yesterday how you paled and trembled when I told you that she had promised to marry me; and how you left me without a word, to see me no more until now. Forgive me, Dick, the pain I gave you then; until that moment I did not know that you loved her. (Raise my head a little, old man. There, that is easier.) Dick, what was I to win her love?—the love of the purest, sweetest woman that ever lived. A gambler—everything that is bad; an adventurer—a man without a name or home. Yet she did love me, God bless her! preferring me to the scores of lovers of her own people that flocked about her.

"How the people stared when we were married! even the priest seemed to wonder how one so beautiful and high-born, one so spotless and pure as she could mate with me—with Poker Jack, the gambler. (You turn away; am I tiring you, old fellow? No? Then I will tell you the rest.) But we cared nothing for what others thought; we thought only of one another; and wishing to be undisturbed in our happiness, we went to live at Los Ojos, an estate of hers far back in the foothills of the Sierra Madre—I wanted to buy a home nearer to civilization, but she would not let me use my money, telling me that, won at cards, it was accursed; and so I gave it all to the Sisters. You smile? Dick, you don't know the hold a pure, good wife has on a man, especially if he loves her as I loved Dolores. Such love is a holy thing, and it purified me, driving out of me all that was bad. Why, Dick, without an effort I gave up cards—everything of my old life; and I learned her religion—learned to pray! Just think of that, Dick; *Poker Jack* praying, and in earnest!

"For three years, back there in the wild foothills, with only the servants and ranch hands, we lived a life of perfect happiness—a dream of love and joy; and then our child was born. Born to die within the week, poor little fellow! He had her eyes, Dick! And what a blow that was—I thought it would kill Dolores! (Lift up my shoulders a little; I am choking.)

"Just then, before she had entirely recovered her strength—you know how ill-timed some things come, Dick—fires blazing on the mountain tops flashed along the Sierras the message: 'The Apaches are raiding; defend yourselves!' You know what that meant; a whirlwind of fire and blood—a war of extermination, when even the most cowardly fight to the last breath. Hurriedly scattered ranchers gathered at Los Ojos to consult concerning the defense of the lives of their families; the soldiers were all far away, and we had to depend upon ourselves. It was decided that we should be the first to strike—to surprise the Indians if possible; and I was chosen leader.

"When I told Dolores that I must leave her

COMFORT.

she heard without a protest—without a word to weaken me; but I will never forget how she looked, holding me tight in her arms, and gazing with her great dark eyes into mine. Ah! Dick, women are far nobler, braver than men think them! It was much easier for me to leave her, to brave the dangers and hardships of the campaign, than for her to see me go. We started that morning. Two days later we were overtaken by a handsome young fellow, a Mexican, who brought me a letter from my wife. He was her cousin, Carlos Montez by name, just from the South, she wrote; he wished to go with us to help in driving back the Indians, and she placed him in my care. We were glad to have him, I particularly so, for he had the face and eyes of Dolores, and something of her voice. (Give me another pull at your canteen, old man, I am growing feverish.)

"The next day we struck the Apache trail, and following it, we came upon the Indians that night. Instantly we attacked, surprising the red devils while they slept, and though the fight was a hot one and sometimes in doubt, we ended by giving them a complete thrashing. They scattered into the mountains, but only to come together again—you know what it is to fight Apaches, it's like catching a flea. A week afterward we struck the band again, and in the fight that followed, I would have lost my life but for Carlos; stunned by a glancing bullet, I lay directly in the Apache fire, and he, unmindful of the bullets, rushed to where I lay and carried me to cover behind the rocks. This time we gave the Indians a stunning blow, scattering them for good; and with light hearts, we turned our faces homeward.

"When within a few miles of Los Ojos my horse cast a shoe, going lame, and in spite of my burning impatience to get on, I was compelled to go slowly; but Carlos galloped on ahead. It was night when I at last arrived; and as I sprang to the ground, I was met by a servant, an old man, tried and true I thought him, who whispered that he had seen a handsome young man steal into my wife's room a few minutes before. (May he roast forever in hell for the slander.) Quick as a flash I struck him full in the face, knocking him down; but the harm was done. Like an angry bull, blindly, furiously, I rushed into the house and on to my wife's room; and coming out of her door I met Carlos. Seeing me his face paled, and he drew back in alarm; but he was too slow. Before he could escape I had thrown myself upon him, clutching him by the throat; and with a savage lunge I drove my knife into his heart.

"Oh, God! If I were to live a thousand years, Dick, always would ring in my ears the cry of agony that burst from those dying lips: 'Dear husband, it is I, Dolores, your wife!'"

"I knew you would shiver and turn from me in horror, Dick—God knows I don't blame you—but stay a few minutes longer and hear it all. Death is very near to me now: already the chill is stealing over me. For pity's sake stay with me until the end, old fellow."

"She lived long enough to tell me that she forgave me, and that she loved me still; then died. And I—my mind gave way, Dick, and when my reason returned I found myself hundreds of miles away, in Arizona. In the long years that have dragged by since then I have dared every danger of the frontier: Indians, outlaws, floods, the desert's thirst—everything, seeking death; and at last, here in Cuba I—find—my—rest. Hold me—closer—old—man—I am—going—now. Are the flags still—waving—on—the—hill? Dolores, querida mia!"

He was dead!

HAZING A FRESHMAN.

A TRUE STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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CURTIS was finding it decidedly up-hill work fighting his way through college on what he could earn during vacation. The studies were sufficient to worry most of the men, but Curtis was continually harassed by cold and hunger, to say nothing of his college bill and stationer's account. It was no wonder that each week he was growing thinner and paler, a troubled look forever haunting his face.

The rest of the men knew something of the terrible struggle and would have helped Curtis, but the brave fellow's pride forbade advances on their part.

"Something has got to be done for Hal, or he won't be here many more weeks," said Bert Van Reuter, addressing several college men who had gathered in his room one evening. "I called to see him last evening and found him satisfying the inner man with crackers and water; I tell you, boys, I didn't enjoy my supper a bit for thinking of Hal and his crackers."

"Is it as bad as that?" asked Frank Murray. "I knew he was having a hard time, but that's too much; why, boys, Hal is starving."

"Yes, bad as that, and worse," replied Van Reuter. "There wasn't a spark of fire in his room, the frost an eighth of an inch thick on his window, and he was trying to keep warm with a blanket wrapped about him. You had better keep your coat on, Bert," he said in his pathetic way, 'the fire's a bit low,' and he tried to make believe he was not eating supper, but just a lunch. I understood, boys, though I said nothing."

"But what can we do?" asked Murray. "Hal is proud and would not accept a cent from any of us."

For a moment Van Reuter looked perplexed. "I know," he said at length, "let's haze him!" "Haze him!" ejaculated the young men in chorus.

"Yes, haze him, boys," replied Van Reuter, "pretend to; take him out in a blanket some night and carry him to some room, lock him in, and while he is away carpet his room, put a quarter of a ton of coal in his coal box, fill up his wood box, leave twenty weeks' meal-tickets on his table, get the books and stationery he needs, and settle his account with the college. It will take considerable money to do all this, but if we all put our shoulders to the wheel it can be done. There are a hundred men who can easily give three dollars apiece, and fifty who can hand out a V. It will be the best kind of a hazing and I guess the faculty will offer no objections."

That very evening Van Reuter received permission from the faculty and with a list headed by a contribution of five dollars from the president of the college and each of those gathered in Van Reuter's room, he went from room to room receiving amounts varying from fifty cents to five dollars. It was the kind of a hazing that interested every man in the college and those who were able to give were not slow in responding. And when two days later all the men had been seen, Van Reuter held six hundred and forty dollars with which to carry out the proposed hazing.

Curtis was shivering in his room, endeavoring to master a perplexing problem. Somehow this night his thoughts were of home. He wondered if the old folks suspected the truth concerning him. There, no doubt, a cheery fire brightened the home; here, frost curtained the window and the dismal wail of the wind made more desolate the college-room.

"There is no use in trying to hold out much longer," he was saying. "I can't meet my bills and—"

"We're after you, Curtis," said Bert Van Reuter, throwing open the door, dispensing with the ceremony of knocking; "come on boys, I've got hold of him; get your blanket ready."

"Sorry to disturb you, Hal," said Van Reuter, placing his hand over Curtis' mouth, "but you can't get through college without being hazed, and we've come for you."

Curtis tried hard to smile, though it was a ghastly sort of an effort. He wondered when his trials would end; had he not enough to contend with already? He was charitable enough, however, to believe that none of the men would have attempted the hazing had they known just how matters stood with him.

Into the blanket they bundled Curtis, and tying the four corners together they started out of the room, bearing their burden through the long corridors, down the steps and across the campus to an empty room which had been heated for the occasion; and there they left the bewildered fellow, loosing the ends of the blanket and locking him in the room.

"Now, boys, for some work," said Van Reuter, as they came away; "the first thing to do is to fill Hal's coal box, and if it isn't big enough we must get another, but get the coal that was dumped in the yard up to his room, we must. Murray, go to my room and get that box of books I bought at Amee's and Moulton, go with him and bring along the carpet we bought, and don't forget the tacks; they are on the table. Prescott and I will be attending to the coal and wood."

Over the long flights of stairs the two young men traveled, bearing the baskets of coal. It was hard work—work they were unused to, but they liked it nevertheless, for somehow they could almost see Curtis standing in the middle of his room, looking with astonished and delighted eyes on the changes wrought in his absence. It was evident that the box was built precisely for a quarter of a ton of coal, for when the last basketful was turned in, it was just rounding-full. Then the wood was piled into the wood-box and that which they were unable to store therein, they piled in the corner of the closet.

"Now out with the table and chairs, boys," said Van Reuter, addressing the young men who had arrived with the books and carpet, "and we will have the carpet down in short order; I will be sweeping out the dirt we have brought in."

Other men who had completed their studies for the evening and certain ones who had not done so, were on hand watching operations, ready to lend a hand if it were needed.

Willing hands make short work, and it was not many minutes before Van Reuter and Murray were down on their knees driving in the tacks at a merry tempo, Moulton and Prescott meanwhile opening the box of books and arranging them on the table, which as soon as the carpet had been laid was returned to the room.

"There," said Van Reuter, straightening up, "bring the chairs back, boys, and start a roaring fire in the stove, and we'll be ready for Hal; the meal-tickets, receipts from the college and the money that was left I'm going to leave here on the table where he will see it first thing when he enters, and if he doesn't shut his door too quick, we will have the richest treat of the year."

"It's too bad the room opposite couldn't have been heated to-night," continued Van Reuter, "but as it is not, we will have to stand the cold, but being empty, it will hold more of us, boys, and there's some consolation in that. I'll go and unlock Curtis now; be sure you are all in there when he arrives, though I shall try desperately to reach here ahead of him."

Out across the campus Van Reuter hastened, anxious to see the crowning moment of this unique hazing.

"Come out, Hal," said Van Reuter, throwing open the door that held Curtis a prisoner, "we decided to let you off easy, seeing that you gave us no trouble."

Without pausing for Curtis to make reply, Van Reuter hastened away, fearing lest Curtis should hurry back to his own room, giving him no opportunity to reach the room where the rest of the students were waiting to enjoy the climax of the plot. And it was well he did so, for Curtis the instant he was liberated, donning his great coat, which Murray had thoughtfully brought when they bore Curtis thither in the blanket, started for his room, quickening his steps as he encountered the sharp wind.

As Curtis crossed the avenue, he saw several pieces of kindling wood, which had evidently fallen from some passing team, and with a feeling akin to joy he gathered them into his arms, looking hastily around to see if any of the college boys had observed him. It meant a warm room for an hour or so, and his eyes brightened.

"The boys did me a good turn without knowing it," he said as he hurried on, "I shall be warm before going to bed, and that is

something out of the ordinary."

Van Reuter had scarcely arrived when Curtis was heard on the stairs, his heavy step being easily recognized.

"He's coming," whispered Murray, "be quiet, boys!"

Down the corridor came Curtis, carrying the kindlings in his arm. Arriving at his door, he threw it open and entered. Suddenly he stopped short, dropping the kindlings in the middle of the floor.

"Excuse me!" he said hastily gathering up the wood, "I thought this was my room!"

On the opposite side of the corridor forty young men were holding onto their sides and stuffing their handkerchiefs into their mouths.

Closing the door behind him, Curtis retreated from his room, pausing before the door on the right and looking sharply at the number.

"Boys," whispered Murray from his position where he could look over the transom, "boys, he's at Stuart's room, trying to make out the number."

"It's my number, all right," said Curtis, returning to his own door, "but—but," he hesitated, "it isn't my room."

It was cold standing there and his teeth chattered.

"I—I don't understand it," he said, placing the kindlings on the floor and passing his hand across his head in a bewildered sort of a way. "I'll knock and perhaps whoever it is that rooms here will set things right."

Timidly rapping, Curtis waited for a moment, but no response coming from within, he knocked so loudly that the building echoed.

"I guess that will bring him," he said, grimly. "Passing strange!" he said, "my number!"

Suddenly he turned the knob to the door, hesitated for an instant, and then walked in.

The light from the stove door cast a flickering glow over the objects in the room, and as the poor fellow saw the familiar furniture, light seemed to break upon him, and a look of intense joy and gratitude swept over his troubled face.

The door to the room where the students were gathered had been noiselessly opened, and they all stood there watching Curtis' every movement. They were not laughing now, somehow they saw the pathetic side of the situation, and more than one found a lump rising in his throat.

And then Curtis dropped into a chair before the fire, a speechless heap of humanity.

Somehow as the young men stood there it dawned upon them that that was not the place for them, and they sought to escape.

Curtis heard the movement and sprang to his feet, advancing bravely to meet them.

"Boys," said he, his voice trembling, "boys, I can't say much to you to-night; I guess you won't expect it; I can only say that I thank you."

"You had better carry these kindlings into your closet, Hal," said Van Reuter.

And as Curtis crossed his room, the students disappeared down the corridor, leaving Curtis alone.

It was late that night before Curtis realized all that had been done for him, the envelope containing the meal-tickets and the balance of the money, lying unnoticed upon the table; it was late and the morning's lessons were untouched, but the professors passed lightly over his failures that day.

A Young Lawyer's Preference.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ANNIE BRASHER.

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HE was sitting under a huge chestnut tree near the little cabin schoolhouse on the hill. The sounds of the children's laughter as they played at the spring down the path came to her ear, giving form to her reverie. Looking up she saw a horseman descending a hill a mile and a half away. She recognized him as Joel Guines and her thoughts were turned into another channel. His was a character to suggest speculation. Born in a cabin on the mountain,

poor and illiterate, with indomitable energy he had worked his way through the school at Linden, the county-seat, then taught in the country to acquire means with which to attend the law school of Tennessee at Lebanon.

He was now a lawyer with a fair practice and an ambition which looked to the legislature. Contact with the world had rubbed off some of his angularities of character and provincialism of manner, but the veneer of polish had never been applied to his moral nature. He was ashamed of his family and of his poverty. Every feeling was subservient to his ambition and his vanity. Watching his descent the young teacher thought of the story whispered abroad that this young aspirant for office could only win by paying a unique price. A rich old hayseed farmer, ex-legislator and political wire-puller had for years controlled the republican and third-party vote of the district; to hope to succeed in either party was to gain his influence. He was quite a Warwick in a small way. Upon this young man, the old politician's only child, a plain, yellow-faced woman of middle life, had set her fancy. By marrying her he could be elected. She would bring him a river farm and a few thousand dollars in cash. The force of character and energy which he had displayed had excited the interest of the young teacher, and she was wondering if his ambition would pay such a price for its gratification, when she saw him leave the main road and come up the hill to the schoolhouse.

As he dismounted and tied his horse to a tree,

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE.

HOWEVER much any reader of COMFORT may differ with the general policy which is known as expansion, there can be no doubt but that every one feels an intense interest in the course of the American government now that we are one of the leading powers of the world. The Samoan treaty by which that group of islands was governed by America, Britain and Germany has given way to an agreement by which the group is divided. America holds the island of Tutuila, containing the great harbor of Pago-Pago, where we have held rights to a Naval Station for a number of years and which was the cause of our original interest in the many troubles of the islanders.

As was expected by all observers, Congress had hardly reassembled after the holidays before the Philippine question appeared before both branches in several forms. The most exciting debate was in the Senate early in January. On the 9th of that month Senator Beveridge, a young man of great promise from Indiana, introduced his resolution in a speech which takes high rank in ability and which might be termed the extreme view of an extreme Imperialist.

The resolution read as follows:

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Philippine Islands are territory belonging to the United States; that it is the intention of the United States to retain them as such and to establish and maintain such governmental control throughout the archipelago as the situation may demand. And the speech embodied the personal observations of the Senator during his recent extended visit to the Philippines. The speech, which was widely commented on, was a revelation of the material value and conditions of the islands. In the debate, Senators Hoar of Massachusetts and Pettigrew of South Dakota made strong speeches against the presumptive policy of the government to retain the islands in our possession.

There have been three interesting cases in this session of Congress relative to the control which each body has over its own makeup. Nearly the first day of the present session there was presented in the House of Representatives probably the largest petitions which were ever brought before that body, and which were carried up to the Speaker's desk in huge rolls and deposited in an imposing array. These papers represented the signatures of no less than 7,000,000 American women, with an immense array of male petitioners, asking for the exclusion of Brigham H. Roberts from the House of Representatives.

The state of Utah, as our readers will remember, was until a few years ago a territory whose



BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS.

politics were dominated by the Latter Day Saints or, as they are generally known, Mormons. Beside the Mormon population there were nearly as many Gentiles, or people not believing in the Mormon religion. From the beginning the Mormons have believed in polygamy, and although many attempts have been made by the Government to stamp out this blot, nothing was effected until Utah applied for the rights of statehood. At the same time there have been anti-polygamy laws passed, and it was agreed that should the rights of statehood be conferred on Utah no polygamist should ever be elected to any United States office. While there have been very few polygamist marriages since then, many of the Mormons are still living with several wives. In the case of Roberts it is alleged that he had three wives living in different homes. It is hard to find what the real facts in the case are, but it is believed that for some reason the Mormon Church did not support him for Congress, and that his election was almost entirely due to the votes of the Gentiles.

A special committee was appointed by Speaker Henderson and held a most searching investigation. The majority of the committee rendered a report excluding Roberts from the House without admission. Mr. Littlefield of Maine and DeArmond of Missouri presented a minority report, asking for his admission and exclusion afterwards. This gave rise to an extremely interesting debate in which Mr. Littlefield made his first speech which clearly placed him in the front rank of ready debaters, and was a masterly effort which received unusually high commendation for a maiden effort. It was believed, however, that should Roberts be admitted to the House his exclusion afterwards might be difficult and raise serious legal questions which could only be settled by the Supreme Court. The vote was overwhelming, being 268 to exclude him without admission, and only 50 in his favor. It is believed by everyone that this strong utterance by the people's representatives will have a wholesome effect, and that polygamists will appreciate hereafter that they must act in good faith toward the Government or receive no recognition.

The other two cases to which we have re-

SILVER TEA SET & JEWELRY

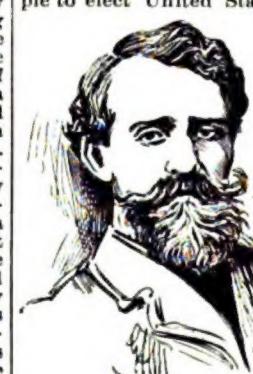
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ferred are in the Senate. The first is the case of William A. Clark who was elected United States Senator from Montana. This is a contested election case, although Mr. Clark is apparently elected, and has the certificate. He is charged with wholesale bribery of members of the legislature. By a unanimous decision of the Montana Supreme Court, Attorney General John D. Wellcome of that state was publicly disbarred for acting as agent for Clark in the bribery of various members. Mr. Wellcome was the acknowledged agent of Mr. Clark in the very bitter struggle which took place during the session of the Montana legislature, which it will be remembered was largely the fight of interested capitalists. The claim that Wellcome bribed members of the legislature to vote for Clark was freely made at the time of the contest and was repeated in various reputable newspapers. It was repeated under oath, and publicly proven to the satisfaction of the supreme judges of Montana, which brought about this act of disbarment. The vote being unanimous cannot but have serious influence with the Senatorial committee of privileges and elections, which is now hearing the case. The charge against Senator Clark is bribery, and numerous witnesses who have visited Washington have made most detailed statements of these facts. The sums offered for votes and the incidents surrounding the efforts of Mr. Clark and his agents to secure votes are stated so explicitly and with so little contradiction and are supported with such a wealth of evidence that it will take a great deal of strength on the other side to prove that his election was free from corruption.

Finally, a case that is obtaining much attention both in and out of Congress, and causing endless discussion everywhere, is that of Matthew S. Quay, who has been appointed a Senator from Pennsylvania by the Governor and has appeared in Washington with his certificate, and now his case is before the committee on elections. Mr. Quay is one of the most adroit politicians in the country, and has been uniformly successful. He has held the state of Pennsylvania and the republican party there strongly in his grip, although numerous attempts have been made to oust him from leadership, but none have been successful. He appeared before the last legislature as a candidate for re-election to the Senate, but was unable to obtain within twenty or thirty votes of the necessary majority. Numerous balloting were held for weeks at Harrisburg, and finally the legislature adjourned without any election. He was immediately appointed by Governor Stone. As there have been one or two similar cases, and that of California still pending, the Quay case has raised a great question whether a governor in such a case should appoint. Those in favor of Mr. Quay's side state that it was intended by the makers of the constitution that there should be two representatives for every state in the upper house at all times; but as the constitution says the governor *may* appoint in case of a vacancy, the opponents of Mr. Quay claim that it is not mandatory, especially as the legislature by its own act failed to send a successor, and that under no circumstance should a governor be permitted to appoint a senator for a whole term. As there have been three or four states denied half their representation on account of the legislature failing to elect, the oft raised question of a constitutional amendment to permit the people to elect United States senators by direct vote is again being agitated, and is receiving much more attention than usual on account of the prominence of Mr. Quay's case. The majority report, largely signed by democrats, has been received recommending the exclusion of Mr. Quay; while a minority report, signed by some of the republicans of the committee, recommends his admission. When the case is debated before the Senate it will command unusual attention and will be supported and opposed by the best talent in the upper House.



WILLIAM A. CLARK.

As has been pointed out many times, the sentiment of the country is overwhelmingly in favor of the early completion of the Nicaraguan canal. With possessions in the Pacific, and the necessity of quick water communication between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, we have learned the urgent necessity of a shorter route to the Pacific from the East. In the earlier part of February, a treaty was signed between Secretary of State Hay and Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, by which the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was abrogated in part. This treaty, which was completed some time in the 40s, provided that any canal built across the Isthmus must be under the joint ownership and control of England and America. Under the terms of the present treaty, England withdraws all claims, but it is stipulated that this canal must forever be neutral water, and that in time of war, ships of any nation may travel it without interference. It is also stipulated that it is not to be fortified at either end. This treaty was received in England with considerable feeling, as it was believed everything had been given the Americans without any reciprocity, and much complaint was made that in ceding their rights the British would not have obtained certain privileges on the Alaskan boundaries and tide waters.

A canvass of Congress showed conclusively that a large majority are in favor of the immediate building of the canal, and it is believed that \$140,000,000 will be ultimately appropriated to be used in certain quantities until the completion of the canal, \$10,000,000 being immediately available for the work. The only objections which have been raised are that the United States in paying for this canal should not give away its rights for its control in time of war, and that it should also hold to its former intention of fortifying both ends of the canal to prevent any damage in time of war. It is also contended, on the contrary, that the canal would be safer as neutral water, for in case of war it would be easy to destroy large parts of it from the interior, and so ruin a great work. An early debate bearing upon the whole subject, and especially the condition of the French Isthmian canal, upon which a United States Commission is still to report, is likely at an early date.

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Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE month of January proved an exciting one in the Boer campaign and every move has been followed in the telegraphic reports to the press. As has been indicated in previous articles in COMFORT on the Boer war, it is not our intention to give a complete history of the various events which necessarily happen nearly a month before the publication of each

number; but rather our design is to note some of the features and characteristics of the people and campaign that may interest our readers and enable them to more intelligently read the daily dispatches as published in the newspaper press. Should any interested reader desire information on any particular point a letter sent to the editor asking the question will cause the answer to be embodied in the next article.

The initial cut shows the difficulties of the present warfare. This picture is from a photograph of a Boer detachment getting a gun placed in a commanding position on one of the numerous "Kops", or hills, commanding the passes in the mountains leading to Ladysmith. Reading the accounts of these desperate conflicts, we are apt to underrate and forget the difficulties of the struggle. The Boers are strongly intrenched in a mountainous region and are armed with the most modern and destructive weapons. For a long time they were on numerically even terms, which gave the Boers in the defensive a great advantage. As February enters we find that, notwithstanding immense reinforcements for the British, the superior strategy of the Boers has more than made up for want of men; and, that the three British armies have been soundly thrashed and are now completely held at bay.

The Briton is never in better shape than when meeting with reverses, and as was expected the whole British population, dismayed and aghast, grimly prepares to make the best of it and fight it through to the end. It is a very noticeable fact that even the strongest Boer sympathizers expect that England will eventually win, which in part shows how generally the Bulldog tenacity of the Saxon race is admitted. But aside from this, Great Britain to save herself must win, no matter what cost. Her defeat in this war would be the commencement of her struggle against all Europe for her very life.

A very common comment on this war is concerning its great death list. The world has been much impressed by Gen. Methuen's despatches in which he calls his defeat at Modder River "the bloodiest fighting of the century." This has caused many interested writers to make comparisons. Without looking at statistics one would naturally accept the statement, considering the great effectiveness of modern armament; but the claim is at once dispelled when figures are produced. Gen. Methuen had 6500 men and his losses in killed and wounded were 475, seven and a half per cent. In fifty battles of our own Civil war the Union loss was an average of sixteen per cent., while the Confederates lost eighteen. Where small bodies such as Methuen had engaged, the average loss was twenty per cent. In the Union army Hancock lost fifty per cent. at Fredericksburg and Longstreet the same at Gaines Mills.

And yet the newspapers speak of a General in full retreat after a loss of six or seven per cent. as not knowing when he is beaten and of the fire having been such as no man could resist. These troops have neither been in "the bloodiest fighting of the century" nor have they begun to show the fighting qualities and the endurance of the American volunteers on both sides in our Civil war. Newspapers are largely responsible for the exaggerations of modern warfare. Even in our late Spanish war slight skirmishes were called bloody battles, and every soldier was a hero in the news-paper column.



THE HIGHLANDERS AFTER BATTLE.

Just at present there is being held a series of pro-Boer meetings in different parts of the States. These are largely intended to work up sentimental feeling to such a pitch as to cause political action and recognition of the independence of the Transvaal. Every citizen has a perfect right to think as he may please; but no good citizen will try to have our government intervene. We always stood out against England or any other country interfering in our quarrels, and as a matter of consistency we should be very careful how we move. Every reader should remember that, should the British Empire fall, Russia will be the leading nation of the world and instead of the Anglo-Saxon domination in civilization we should have the Muscovite directing the world's affairs.

In our own country there has lately been some discussion as to the propriety of giving something beside the numerical name to a regiment, and it is pointed out that in reading of foreign wars such as the present, and especially in foreign novels we become accustomed to certain designatory names of regiments in the foreign armies, which unconsciously gives them an interest to us when we read of their deeds in the press.

No more familiar instance of this can be found than by the press despatches from the Transvaal recounting as they continually do the movements of the Gordon Highlanders, un-

til this regiment is as familiar to the newspaper readers on two continents as that of any general in either army. To give American readers a clearer idea of this remarkable body of fighters we will reproduce in concise form the extended histories of this regiment given in English periodicals.

With due regard to the wild scenes of enthusiasm which have attended the departure of many British military organizations for the front, nothing has equalled the demonstrations which attended the march of the Highlanders. Nor is it to be wondered at considering the high estimation this sturdy body of men holds in England's public estimation; and that above the passing regiment fluttered flags proudly bearing all of these names of British victories: "Egmont-op-Zee," "Mandera," "Corunna," "Fustes d'Over," "Almavas," "Victoria," "Pyrenees," "Nive," "Orthes," "Peninsular," "Waterloo," "Delhi," "Lucknow," "Kabul," "Kandahar," "Afghanistan," "Nile 1884-5," "Chitral," "South Africa" and "Tel-el-Kebir," which certainly comprise the most notable of modern English battles.

Before the present system of attaching popular names to regiments prevailed, they were known as the 92nd Infantry. In the year 1794, the Duke of Gordon, popularly known as "The Cock of the North," reorganized the regiment. His letter of instructions empowered him to enlist such of his own clansmen as cared to accept the King's shilling, and in less than a month he had a regiment of over 1000 men. They were immediately enrolled in the service and sent to the Mediterranean coast on garrison duty and it was not until five years after this time, in the war which was intended to wrest Holland from the French Republic, that they went into their first battle at Egmont-op-Zee. When an English army was sent to purge Spain of the French, the Highlanders were sent to the front and served most efficiently, losing their commander, Col. Napier, towards the close of this eventful Peninsular campaign, which first shook the power of Napoleon. Not only did they win victories in Spain; but with Wellington in Portugal won new laurels.

In the Waterloo campaign at Quatre Bras the Highlanders were brigaded with the Black Watch and Royal Scots, and made the famous charge against the French with bayonets putting them to flight. A shot from a solitary farmhouse on the field killed Col. Cameron and immediately his men charged the house killing every one of the French soldiers there.

Two days later at Waterloo with the Scots Greys they were hurled in a desperate and successful charge against the flower of the French army after having held the ground all day against a larger force. Forty years of peace followed before the Crimean war when the regiment was again called into action. Since then, as the names of battles above indicate, the Highlanders have taken part in nearly every campaign that Britain has carried on, and have not been absent from a single one of the more important ones.

A recent article appeared in an English financial paper showing the prepared state of the Transvaal and incidentally showing Oom Paul's foresight. It was stated that never since all nations were at constant warfare had there been such an example of preparation and precaution. He created dynamite factories at Laerfontein, which are the largest and finest in the world. They are on the line between Pretoria and Johannesburg and can turn out the finest high explosives known to science. The entire equipment is German and the work is done by Dutch and Kaffir help. Besides this Pretoria is surrounded by an unexcelled system of fortifications, equal to any in Europe. It is said with its resources and trained men the only way Pretoria could ever be taken would be by starvation after a long siege.

The most notable movement of the British army during this campaign was Gen. Buller's attempt to crush the right flank of the Boer army blocking his way for the relief of besieged Ladysmith. After a long halt following his defeat at Colenso, Buller threw out his left wing under Gen. Warren. On the Tugela river, January 11th, he occupied a position at Potgieter's Drift (ford) on the river north of Springfield, and about twenty miles west of the bridge at Colenso. Five days after Gen. Lyttleton's brigade forded the river. Gen. Warren's division forded the Tugela on a drift six miles further west the following day, but was met with a very heavy fire. Then the British captured Spion Kop (spy hill) by a night charge and for a moment felt they had the key of the position. In the morning, for a full day, they were mercilessly shelled and met with great losses. A night retreat followed and at least a portion of Warren's division crossed the Tugela in full retreat.

The news of this fresh disaster was received with dismay in England. Immediately a storm of criticism and resentment broke forth in press and parliament. The ministry and the generals came in for a great amount of serious questioning. The general opinion seems to be that the war council at home have tried to make Buller do impossible military feats. While at this writing Buller is the scapegoat, attention should be called to the marvelous defense Gen. White is conducting at Ladysmith. Cooped up since the beginning of the war with

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SPECIAL REQUEST.—Our readers are requested to state that they read Dr. Slocum's announcement in COMFORT when writing him for his generous free treatment.



GENERAL WHITE.

his whole army in an insignificant town, and one easily invested, he has against all odds and every prophecy held out for far over one hundred days. It

seems an impossibility for him to hold out many days longer, and, if he capitulates, he will still be honored. Clearly, so far in the campaign Gen. White seems the only hero General the whole British army has produced. After a debate on the Queen's speech in Parliament a test vote showed an overwhelming majority supported the ministry and favored a fight to the finish with the Boers.

As the writing of this article closes the British army seems to have been unable to push forward toward Ladysmith in third attempt by Gen. Buller, who seems to have been met by an army too brave and too well handled to be beaten

I WAS DEAF AND FRANTIC WITH HEAD NOISES WANTED Agents for a wonderful washday article of great merit. Free sample for the asking. Shaver, Blanke & Co., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I tried every known treatment and device without help. Finally I cured myself by Galvanic Electricity. If you are deaf, or growing deaf, or have head-noises, don't waste time and money as I did. Write me and I will gladly send you full information free. Address W. J. TINDALL, over PostOffice, CORNING, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum System is medicine reduced to an exact science, and this is a genuine offer made by America's foremost medical specialist in pulmonary and lung diseases. We urge every reader of COMFORT, who is afflicted, to send for the Four Preparations (The Slocum System), because we know the proposition to be an honest one. It would also be generous on your part to notify all suffering friends of this great free offer, and thereby be instrumental in restoring them to health. It is a pleasure to do our part.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE following suggestions were sent to us by one of our readers, and we are sure they will be acceptable to all who are in search of something out of the ordinary way of entertaining. The first one took the form of a "Floral Love Song." The hostess provided the members with a sheet of writing paper and pencil. On the outside of the paper was an embossed purple pansy, the emblem of this circle. Any flower may be substituted. There was also the title of the affair written in purple ink "A Floral Love Story." On the inside were twenty questions as follows:

1. What was the maiden's name and the color of her hair? Answer. Marigold.
2. Her brother's name and an adjective applying to herself? A—Sweet William.
3. Her brother's favorite sport in winter? A—Snowball.
4. Upon what instrument did he play? A—Trumpet.
5. What hour did he wake his father playing on instrument? A—Four-o'clock.
6. What did his father punish him with? A—Golden-rod.
7. What nationality was his father? A—Wandering Jew.
8. What office did he hold in Church? A—Elder.
9. Her lover's name and with what did he write? A—Jonquil.
10. What kind of confectionery did he bring her? A—Buttercups.
11. How did she become engaged? A—Aster.
12. For what did she ask? A—Thyme.
13. What flower did she offer her lover? A—Tulips.
14. To whom did she refer him? A—Poppy.
15. What flowers bloomed on her cheeks? A—Roses.
16. What did he lose when he married? A—Bachelor Buttons.
17. Who married them? A—Jack-in-the-Pulpit.
18. What numbers attended the wedding? A—Phlox.
19. Maiden Aunt's appearance and name? A—Primrose.
20. Where did they go on their wedding tour and what millionaire accompanied them? A—China Aster.

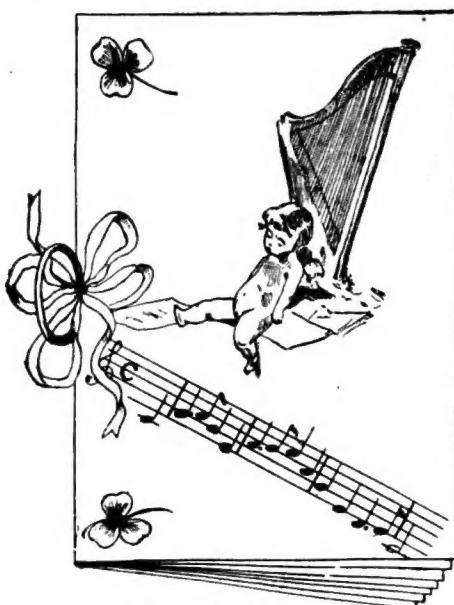
About five minutes were allowed for the members to guess the names of the flowers. And the person naming the largest number was rewarded with a beautiful bouquet of Jonquils.

A unique and novel manner to entertain guests in March was seen by the writer a few years ago. It is called "A Shamrock Party." The invitations were plain white squares upon which was inscribed in green ink:

The Misses Stone
at home
St. Patrick's Day.
Progressive —

The missing word, the principal occasion for conjecture, was supplied by a small bunch of shamrocks held in place under a stiff bow of bright green ribbon, and in connection it came to light that not every one recognized the historic Irish emblem, twin sister of our own white clover. The envelopes were sealed with bright green wax stamped with a harp or clover.

The rooms were decorated with pots and jars bright with fresh green, the chosen color, and here and there were draped scarfs of the same tint. Upon the mantel was a large paste-board



SHAMROCK PARTY BOOKLET.

staff gilded, with trained crisp green smilax along its lines, while on the shelf were a number of golden notes reminding the guests "The harp that once through Tara's halls the soul of music shed."

The flowers used were Jonquils. Near the entrance flourished a green plant that originated in a paper but was now much improved through transformation.

As the guests came in each picked a leaflet. Those for the ladies were of goodly size and fair shape, but the gentlemen had to be satisfied with inferior ones, nibbled about the edges.

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Don't waste your time trying to sell trash. Our goods have merit and people want them. It costs you nothing to have us prove this.



Showing Front



Showing Back

On the back of each leaf was an inscription varying according to circumstances: Table 1—A.

This indicated that the holder was to play at the first table and with the one who held a shamrock lettered to form a duplicate. The curiosity of the guests was at its height when the cards for the game were brought in.

The scores were booklets with Irish sketches on the backs and the inner leaves firmly secured by strands of green baby ribbon. A small brass ring was tied with the bow knot.

On each table was placed a toy pot of loose shamrock leaves which had been cut from a mucilaged sheet of green paper. At the signal all the players closed their eyes or were blind folded and each tried to properly place a leaflet on the green stem which appeared on the first page of each booklet. About one minute



HE initial shows a remarkable specimen of an animal which recently arrived at Philadelphia from Brazil. It is called the Boogum, and is a powerful animal, being nearly five feet tall. When captured it was found sleeping with head downward, hanging from a tree. Its future home will be at the Zoo, where a cage of metal will be necessary as it can tear wood into splinters. There was great difficulty in bringing this animal over on shipboard.



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some other premium by selling a few boxes of our high-grade Toilet Soap to your friends and neighbors. It sells on its merits.

NO MONEY REQUIRED IN ADVANCE. We have the best plan for Boys, Girls and Women. Our premiums are absolutely the best. Large illustrated list of premiums including Ladies and Children's Clothing, Furniture, Guns, Guitars, Mandolins, etc., mailed **FREE.** Write to-day for full particulars.

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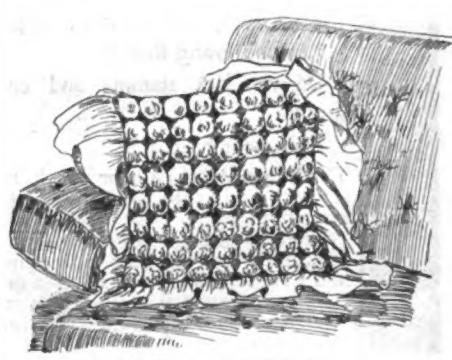
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Anyone Can Have a Free Trial Package.

Some time ago a well known business man whose stomach and nerves were ruined by the tobacco habit was secretly given a remedy by his wife and he never knew what cured him of the habit. She then treated her son who was a cigarette fiend, inhaling the deadly fumes almost constantly and he too was made sick of the "weed" and quit.

The remedy is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. The remedy contains nothing that could possibly do injury. It is simply an antidote for the poisons of tobacco and takes nicotine out of the system. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. The remedy is called Tobacco Specific and a free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 745 Fifth and Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio.



BISCUIT SOFA PILLOW.

was allowed for this. Shamrocks were chosen for a second attempt and a third trial.

The couple showing the best branch of shamrocks went up to the next table, first fastening some unique marker to the ring. These markers were ebonized pots, effigies of Master Piggie, tiny shillalahs, harps, etc., swinging from green silk cords.

A black board was then produced and the guests drew Irish scenes. In the midst of the merriment sounded some Irish melodies, "The meeting of the Waters," "Erin! Oh Erin!" etc. They were then ushered into the dining room where green and gold predominated.

The mantel was banked with Jonquils and ferns; shades of yellow enclosed the lights and across the table was a floral bar of music. Strips of green wood held the five smilax twined wires, while Egyptian moss was twisted about the treble clef.

The golden notes were Jonquils. On either side of this was a crystal candelabra with green wax candles. Green flags showing the harp fluttered here and there.

Now for some fancy work.

We show illustration of a Biscuit Sofa Pillow, which is odd and very pretty, and is made of small pieces of silk, ribbon or velvet. Each puff is made on a square of cotton cloth. This cushion has one hundred and forty-four puffs. Cut the linings two and a quarter inches square and the silk three inches square.

Form the puff by taking a little fold in the silk on each side and insert a bit of wadding to hold the puff up. Sew the squares together, blending the colors nicely, and it well pays for the work one puts in it. The lining of the cushion may be any color which harmonizes; finish with cord or double ruffle.

A large bed quilt made in this way is very lovely.

It is astonishing how many pieces may be found that are suitable for this sort of thing and for nothing else. Soiled neckties, which are usually made of lovely silks, may be cleansed and used for this purpose. The work is pleasant to do and is very satisfactory when finished. A small quilt to lay over the foot or back of the couch or sofa in the family living room is very convenient, and if one finds fewer pieces of silk than expected, a quilt about half the usual width may be made for just this purpose. It should be full length—say two yards long by one yard wide.

Agents, Perfumes etc. on credit. Big Profit. Express Pd. Terms free. Herbene Co., Box 4, Station L, New York.



20 Packets FLOWERS 10 Choice Bulbs.

For 25c. we will send the following choice collection for 25c. post paid.

- 1 Pkt Double Chrysanthemum, hardy, great profuseness.
- 1 Pkt Polyantha Baby Rose, bloom in 90 days from planting.
- 1 Pkt Tree Aster, new and very attractive, giant flowers.
- 4 Pkts Pansies, yellow, black, red, white, separate colors.
- 1 Pkt Ageratum, new and very choice, blue and white.
- 1 Pkt Poppy Bracteatum, very brilliant colors and hardy.
- 1 Pkt Japanese Morning Glories, beautiful markings.
- 1 Pkt Geranium, choice.
- 1 Pkt Sweet William, pink.
- 1 Pkt Similar, old favorite.
- 1 Pkt Sweet Lavender.
- 1 Pkt Schizanthus, grand.
- 1 Pkt Petunia, striped, mixed.
- 1 Pkt Brachycome (Daisy)
- 1 Pkt Nigella, Love in Mist
- 1 Pkt Bush Sweet Pea, new.
- 1 Pkt Sweet Pea, bushy, semi-double, pink.
- 1 Pkt Petunia, striped, mixed.

10 Bulbs

20 Packets FLOWERS 10 Choice Bulbs.

For 25c. we will send the above Seeds and Bulbs, together with our new colored plate catalog, sent postpaid for 25c. NOTICE—A return check for 25c. sent with each collection.

J. ROSCOE FULLER & CO., Floral Park, N. Y.

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Please mention CONNOR when you write.

Free

This magnificent Solid Gold shell ring, set with a brilliant simulation Diamond free, if you will sell 6 sets of our Beauty Pins (each set with an exquisite Jewel) at 25c. a set. Send name & address. No money wanted. We run all risk and take back what you cannot sell. Also an extra handsome present if you write to—The Maxwell Co., Dept. 210, St. Louis, Mo.

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.
There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new **All Wool Duster.** Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. **Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle firmly secured with Bright Aluminum Ferrule,** that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. **A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL.** We will send one sample **All Wool Duster** free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

COMFORT.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *COMFORT* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Maud B. Rogers,	\$2.00
Mary W. Early,	2.50
Mrs. F. R. Shurte,	2.00
Mrs. Lewis Flemer,	1.50
Louise Snow,	1.00

EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Lo! here again is old March, bringing promises of spring to all inhabitants of our land, but how various is his mien, and how differently is his message worded as he flies! To our northern cousins he comes with furious howls, with bitter cold and falling snows, and some of winter's worst storms he drags shrieking in his train to pour out their fury during his brief reign. But to the dwellers in the sunny southern states he brings a smiling face, warm, gentle breezes, flowers, and all green things.

Ah! he is a two-faced fellow, is March, with smiles for some of his subjects and frowns and harsh treatment for others; but, as with many a human being in this varied world, we must e'en take him as we find him and make the best we can of him.

Our first letter this month is from California, and describes a novel way of utilizing discarded street cars.

"A very short distance from streets and avenues of costly houses, and close beside the ocean beach entrance to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, there have very recently been erected some of the most extraordinary homes in the state. The dense park forest and the few high hills lying between the city and the ocean are all that divide the thickly settled streets from this new and isolated region; and when one has been swiftly carried hither by the electric cars it is hard to realize that he is yet close to the bustle and life of a great city. The building site too is extraordinary, among the countless and ever shifting sand dunes so close beside the ocean that the boulevard alone separates it from the wash of the surf.

"From a distance the houses have a very peculiar appearance owing to their being partially constructed of the horse cars left here when electric



GOLDEN GATE PARK.

cars were added to San Francisco, and with their many small windows, their low height and solid build remind one, especially when lighted up at night, of the ships passing by a little way off. Within all is cosy, and the wind which every day blows in from the sea with blustering vigor, shifts the sand and seems to make the snug dwellings seem all the more secure.

"In one particular dwelling somewhat more capacious than the rest the street cars are used for upstairs bedrooms. On the lower floor under the front car is the parlor, extending on each side a few feet wider than the car above. Behind this is a smaller room with steps leading into the upstairs hall which separates the cars, and behind this the kitchen, underneath the back car bedroom, the same size as the parlor. Books line the walls, potted plants stand in the windows and within all has the aspect of a snug interior. The residents are already setting out plants similar to those growing in that part of the park nearest to them, and in time they will make as fine a showing as these, but at present there is no wind-break and the sand remorselessly covers them over many times a day."

MAUD B. ROGERS.
Menlo Park, California.

Now we have a foreign letter which is especially interesting this spring, when so many are planning to visit, the coming summer, the places here described.

"I always read the letters in *COMFORT* with great interest and am tempted to offer you a short account of my visit to Orleans, France.

"Twilight was deepening when our train stopped at that beautifully situated city—Orleans—on the Loire, some seventy or eighty miles from Paris. Calling a carriage we were driven to the best hotel—Hotel d'Orléans—which proved to be a very antiquated affair, surrounding a circular, grass-grown court, in which we dined.

"Everything connected with the establishment, even the chicken served at dinner, could be nicely

described by that one word 'ancient', and it was only youthful energy and good teeth, urged by hunger, that enabled us to accomplish the utter annihilation of that hen. That feast accomplished we sallied forth on a little tour of inspection by lamplight.

"We passed the house of Agnes Sarrel, which seemed to be deserted and dark. The little grass plot in front was entirely overgrown with weeds. After passing the houses of Diane de Poitiers and Francois I. of Orléans, we found our way back to the Hotel d'Orléans.

"In the morning we visited first the famous Cathedral, with its two high towers. It is situated on a large 'Place' and is indeed awe-inspiring seen from within. It was begun in the early centuries and finished by Charles VII. in commemoration of Joan of Arc. How little did the French people appreciate her while she lived! And now the whole city seems filled with her spirit and souvenirs of her abound in the stores. The tall house situated in an unreflected street, where she is said to have lived, is not conspicuous for anything except it be its narrowness. We were directed to the equestrian statue of Joan by a peasant who spoke altogether a different 'patois' from what we had been used to hearing in Bordeaux. We found that statue the best of three which have been erected in her honor."

MRS. LEWIS FLEMER, Washington, D. C.

Now back to our own country again.

"About five miles from old Tioga Point, a place of great historic interest in Pennsylvania, is Spanish Hill, a spot of considerable celebrity, but whether natural or in part artificial, we of to-day are left in doubt. This hill is two hundred feet high and one mile in circumference, but it seemed much more when we clambered laboriously, in a slanting, round-about way, up its steep, rocky sides. At the northwest it is covered with a deep forest of evergreen, through which the ascending path winds, the pine needles thickly strewing the ground and filling the air with their spicy fragrance. The curving path brings us out at the top of the hill at the southwest, where from its summit there is a fine view of the far-reaching ranges of foot-hills and mountains that seem to almost surround the beautiful, wide valley below. At the right the shining Chemung, and at the left the beautiful Susquehanna flow through well cultivated farm lands, the rich fields of differently colored grains making a charming piece of Nature's mosaic.

"Only faint indications of the old fortification can be seen on the hill's summit, which is now a nearly smooth plateau, with not a tree, and but few shrubs and wild flowers growing on its grassy surface.

"The Indians had a superstitious fear of this hill-top, and though their hunting ground lay in this vicinity, they seldom went nigh it. There was a tradition that a chief once went to the summit and the Manitou caught him by the scalp-lock and buried him hence to regions unknown. His real fate is supposed to have been that he was made away with by the Spanish buccaneers, or refugees from Florida, who gave to the hill its name. There is a generally accredited legend that an Indian chieftain wedded a Spanish maiden and rescued and guided the refugees in safety to the distant West. A wild fable once existed to the effect that this hill was the spot where the notorious Captain Kidd had secreted his much sought treasure, and credulous persons delved and searched long and arduously, but vainly for it, though pieces of Spanish coin have been picked up on its surface."

LOUISE SNOW, Athens, Pa.

Emily Hunter, of Wrightsboro, Texas, sends us a story for which I thank her, but I cannot make use of it because, as I have said a great many times, we do not use stories on this page. Her description of the Mexicans, which I print below, is, however, very readable.

"The Mexicans live in little huts made of grass, poles, brush and dirt. They have no stoves, but cook in skillets and set their dishes on the floor while they eat. On Saturday nights they get together, for miles around, and dance all night. Sundays they spend in visiting each other. All the remainder of the week during the autumn months, is spent in picking cotton, and during the spring and summer months in hoeing corn and chopping cotton.

"They seem to be happy, for they sing most of the time. Some of the Senoritas are very pretty and others are horribly ugly."

J. J. Tumlin, of Atlanta, Georgia, sends me an article "for the little folks" on rabbits; but as this is not a children's page I am sorry to say I cannot use it. He also offers me poetry, but as we do not use poetry I must decline that also with thanks. I hope he will try us again soon with something we can use.

Our next letter is from an Ohio cousin, giving us a peep at the city of Columbus. She says:

"The city of Columbus, Ohio, was named for the great discoverer, Christopher Columbus, and is the only large city in the United States bearing his name. The streets are wide, well-lighted, and many of them are paved with either brick, stone or asphalt. But let us hie away to the parks. Not the little ones that are scattered here and there over the city, but real, carefully kept public grounds. First is Franklin Park, situated in the extreme eastern part of the city. As we enter the northwestern gate we find a cozy home for the caretaker. The western half contains large trees, with seats, tables, swings, etc. The lake and boathouse also belong to this part. Nearly in the center stands an immense greenhouse, which furnishes all the summer plants for the park, and many others for private decorations in winter.

Nearby is the German Park, given up to the use of the Germans.

"The one most popular for all classes is situated in the northern limit of the city. Nature has been lavish in beautifying its grounds and art has aided. A stream of water passes through the western side and is embanked by high hills on one side and a beautiful wooded valley on the other which in early spring is strewn with golden buttercups and dainty violets.

"The park rejoices in the Indian name of Olentangy, as the Olentangy tribe had their home at one time on the banks of this stream. Their chief, 'Cornstalk', fished, trapped and hunted in the vicinity, while the faithful squaw found the fertile valley suitable for all domestic gardening. We can be entertained here afternoons and evenings in the theater, the merry-go-round, rowing on the river, or racing up and down the stream in the little steam tug. Refreshments are obtainable at all hours. Crowds of pleasure seekers are to be found here from early morning until closing time, every day in the week."

S. A. SMITH, Columbus, O.

Here is a very interesting account of a visit to Niagara Falls written by a cousin who lives in a region which most people consider "the wilds of Maine." By the way, I wish our cousin, John Erickson, would write us some description of the country in which he lives and the occupations of the people. I am sure we should enjoy such a letter.

"I had occasion, last March, to visit the Invalids' Hotel of Buffalo, N. Y., of which Dr. R. V. Pierce is the proprietor, and can truthfully say it is all that they advertise. While there I visited the wonder of the world, Niagara Falls. Our way took us along the shore of historic Lake Erie and on through the fertile valley of the Niagara river. On either side large orchards of apple, pear and plum trees and large vineyards testified to the fertility of this region. On our arrival at the city of Niagara we proceeded at once toward the falls whose roar filled our ears. A hackman carried us over on Goat Island which is situated between the two falls. Here we ascended a long flight of stairs to the edge of the American falls, where there are stands surrounded by iron railings for the accommodation of visitors, and I shall never forget the magnificent

sight which I enjoyed while standing there on the very edge of the precipice looking down into that fearful abyss of wildly churning, leaping water, whose spray rose over one hundred feet in the air and descended in showers upon us, while through it rainbows flashed in brilliant colors.

"We crossed Goat Island and viewed the Horse-shoe falls, which are shaped like a gigantic horse-shoe. Seven times as much water flows over the Horseshoe falls as over the American falls, though the latter are four feet higher. Imagine a stream of water forty feet deep and nearly a mile in width, leaping one hundred and sixty feet in one mighty plunge, causing the very ground to tremble. We also crossed the little bridges to the Three Sisters Islands. They are only large masses of rock above the falls, but Goat Island is covered with beautiful elm, maple and beech trees. We crossed the suspension bridge below the falls and viewed them from the Canada side, then we went a mile down the river and visited the battlefield of Lundy's Lane, but found only a ploughed field and some elms growing on the ground made rich by the blood of many an American and English hero who met in deadly conflict on these green slopes on the fifth day of July, 1814."

JOHN ERICKSON,
Number One, Aroostook Co., Maine.

Now for a peep at scenery in old Virginia.

"One of the most interesting points which Virginia offers to the tourist is the Peaks of Otter, two beautiful twin peaks, three thousand nine hundred and ninety-three feet high, situated in the Blue Ridge mountains in Bedford County, Virginia. Although these mountains have a good many elevated points, commanding fine views, yet the Peaks of Otter are the most famous and generally visited of them all; and although the view is said to be as fine from one of these peaks as from the other, yet travellers have fallen into the habit of going exclusively to one, possibly because its ascent may be somewhat the easier. The summit



PEAKS OF OTTER.

of this peak commands a view of such extent and magnificence as can scarcely be surpassed in the whole world, not even by the famous Rigi, or the Jungfrau. It is considered particularly desirable to see this view at sunrise, hence travellers generally make their arrangements with this aim, spending the preceding night at a house at the foot of the mountain, or on the side, and rising at daybreak to make the ascent. They can go about two-thirds of the way on horseback, or in a vehicle, but as they near the summit of the mountain, they begin to encounter great boulders, so they are forced to dismount and toil up the remainder of the way on foot.

"Laborious, indeed, at first ascent, but else so smooth, so green, so full of goodly prospects and harmonious sounds that the harp of Eolus itself was not more charming."

"A large boulder crowns the very summit of the mountain, and climbing up this, the traveller beholds stretched out before him a view vast and grand as the boundless ocean and far more diversified. Great forests, interspersed with meadows and stretches of cultivated land, little towns and villages, ranges of hills and other mountains, silvery streams meandering through the landscape, all these lie extended before him like a vast and splendid panorama, and giving him glimpses of three or four states.

"A legend is told that on one occasion, long ago, a party of frolicsome young college students, visiting the peaks, conceived the idea of rolling a boulder down the mountain, and that at length they got it started, and it rolled down with a tremendous and ever increasing impetus, uprooting great forest trees in its path, and cutting a deeper and deeper channel for itself in its downward course, till at length it settled a little beyond the foot of the mountain."

MARY W. EARLY, Lynchburg, Va.

I have a pleasant letter on the Natural Bridge in Virginia written by J. W. Robinette, for which I thank him, but which I cannot use because the subject has been so often written up. I also thank Edwin Brown for a letter on the Natural Bridge of Kentucky.

A very well written letter from our old friend and cousin, Mrs. E. J. Britton, of Omaha, Nebraska, cannot be used, I am sorry to say, because I have recently published several accounts of cyclones. I also have a pleasant letter by Charles Hone on a trip to Springfield, Illinois.

"We are nestled down on the Ohio river forty-eight miles south of Wheeling, between two ranges of high hills, one range in Ohio and the other in West Virginia. The Ohio river at this point is not more than a block in width and we are so surrounded by hills that we can scarcely see a mile in any direction except overhead. We have a large pumping station here which pumps the oil from the surrounding country in two large tanks holding thirty-five and forty thousand barrels each; thence it goes to Pennsylvania to a refinery.

"During an electric storm the other evening lightning struck one thirty-five thousand barrel tank which contained fifteen thousand barrels; a terrific explosion followed, and column after column of dense black smoke arose and hung over the city like a cloud, while now and then a tongue of flame shot up and was reflected in the clouds. Some oil was saved by draining, but most of it was burned.

"Let me describe to the cousins how we build our country house in the oil regions. First, we get some lumber for the foundation; saw off four pieces and stand on end, then lay other lumber from corner to corner and nail. Next we take rough hemlock and nail two pieces together like a trough, and stand this up for our corner; after we have four of those we take a ladder, if we cannot reach, and nail a plate from one to the other on top. Then we fill in the sides with rough hemlock, and then come the rafters and roof. Some of the roofs are of tar paper, but most are shingles. Now we have a huge box with a roof; and we proceed to cut out holes for doors and windows, and weather board it and then run our partitions, which are rough hemlock boards, put in our doors and windows, build a porch and put on trimming. For the plaster we get unbleached muslin, sew together and stretch tight for ceiling, then we tack it all over the walls, then we paper, and the result is a nice cozy house without laths, plaster, or studding. Some have joists or sills across the top, and some only have a piece to tack muslin on, and a few pieces to nail the partition to, but with gas for fuel we are as comfortable as can be and as happy as if we lived in elegant mansions."

MRS. F. R. SHURTE,

Sistersville, W. Va.

The next letter I find very interesting, and think my readers will also enjoy it.

"I would like to tell your readers about a journey I once made across the Sioux reservation. After driving all day through a hilly, sandy coun-

try we stopped at a log cabin whose owner was a 'squaw-man,' that is, a white man who had married a squaw. There are a number of these squaw-men in the Sioux reservation. The cabin was of good size, all in one room, with a ground floor. A stove, table, and two iron bedsteads curtained off in the back part comprised the furniture of this home in the wilderness.

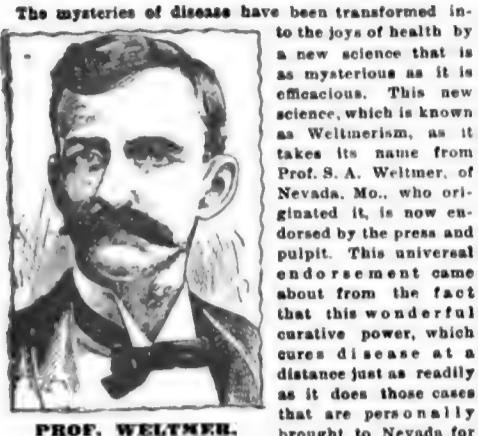
"Our hostess would not say one word to us for fear we would laugh at her broken speech, although she could understand us. She was a good cook, however, and served us at breakfast, next morning with fried eggs, ham, nice bread and butter and good coffee. As soon as the meal was over we hitched up our ponies and were soon on our way through that far-stretching, streamless, verdureless plain. That night we lodged in the open prairie, and were disturbed by nothing but a few howling coyotes, which, however, did not come near enough to keep us long awake.

"All next day we drove on without seeing a house, tree or living soul, and at dark reached the Missouri river; a light ahead led us to a cabin similar to the one where we stayed the first night, only this time our squaw-man was a widower, his squaw having been dead several years and his children being away at school. He told us we had taken the wrong road; we

A MIGHTY HEALER

Prof. S. A. Weltmer Brings a Message of Life, Health, Strength and Power to Mankind.

WELTMERISM THE NEW SCIENCE WHICH CURES ALL DISEASE.



PROF. WELTMER.

The mysteries of disease have been transformed into the joys of health by a new science that is as mysterious as it is efficacious. This new science, which is known as Weltmerism, was originated by Prof. S. A. Weltmer, of Nevada, Mo., who originated it, is now endorsed by the press and pulpit. This universal endorsement came about from the fact that this wonderful curative power, which cures disease at a distance just as readily as it does those cases that are personally brought to Nevada for treatment.

treatment, has been tested in the past two years on more than 100,000 cases of every disease known to man or woman, some acute, others chronic; some were cases of women who suffered every agony from diseases common to their sex; and others from men who suffered debilitation from indiscretions; in fact there is no affliction known that was not tested by this wonderful method of Magnetic Healing and it is recorded that in every instance relief was almost instantly brought on and in more than ninety per cent. a permanent cure was effected. So tremendously successful has been Weltmerism in the curing of disease that all skepticism has been dispelled and scientists throughout the civilized world proclaim that on account of Weltmerism it can now be said for the first time in the history of the world that the curing of disease, is brought into the domain of an exact science, and in all diseases, no matter what their nature, a cure can be effected. We have received from the hands of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the noted scientist, who is a co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, a few of the many testimonials that are in his possession.

T. T. Rodes, of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney

Two or three men will work together in a sugar camp, for after the work has commenced it is often necessary for the pans to be kept boiling night and day. This is because the sap will sour and spoil if allowed to stand for many hours after being gathered. The man who boils nights sleeps days on a bed of hemlock boughs in one corner of the sugar house, and his companions who work during the day, occupy the same bed at night. After the run fairly begins the men rarely go home, except for food, especially if they are working in one of the more distant mountain sugar places. It is a life with all the charm and invigoration of camping out. Potatoes are baked in the ashes before the arch, and meat broiled on a crooked stick held out before the glowing fire of wood. Tea and coffee made from maple sap are just sweet enough to be palatable, and eggs can be boiled in a tin pail hung by a string from a rafter to a level where it will just swing in the boiling, bubbling sap in the pan. The air of the sunny mornings is heavy with the moisture of the melting snow. At night the stars shine through a tracery of branches, and the frost stiffens the soft snow into a crust stout enough to bear a man. In mountain orchards the owls hoot at night their calls and answers to one another, and sometimes the ugly scream of a lynx is heard far off in the darkness. If there comes a light fall of snow in the night, the men, when they first go out in the morning may sometimes find the tracks of a bear.

The Indians hacked the bark of the maple trees with their axes,

and caught the sap which bled from the cuts in rude wooden troughs. This sap they boiled until it thickened into sugar and then they stored it in little baskets of birch bark. The product was scanty and dark in color. The white men have changed the process and utensils by many ingenious inventions, so that the product has been improved in quality and the crop increased in quantity, until now the annual yield is hundreds of thousands of tons. In two respects, though, white men and red men have worked on equal terms. No tree but the maple has been found to yield sugar sap, and this sap will run only when the conditions of climate and weather are favorable.

The sugar maple tree grows to the best advantage in northern New England and Lower Canada. The best flow of sap will not be found so far south that the ground is not covered with snow throughout the winter. With the first warm days of February and March, as the snow begins to soften beneath the more direct rays of the sun, the sap in the maples begins to flow from the roots to the branches, on which the buds will soon be swelling.

The largest sugar orchards are usually back on the sides of the mountains, where the first growth of trees has not been cut. The maple trees in such a forest are often well towards a hundred feet tall, of enormous girth, and with their huge trunks extending far up among the tops of the other trees before they begin to branch. Other orchards of what are called "second growth" trees have sprung up in the pastures, nearer the villages, and these, although the trees are not nearly so large, are quite as productive, since the easier access to the sunlight which they afford seems to make the sap sweeter and more plentiful.

The sugar maker's work begins with shoveling out the road into the sugar place, for often at that time of the year the snow will be four feet deep there. The snow must also be shoveled off from the roof of the sugar house, and away from the door, so that an entrance can be made. The sugar house is a small, wooden building, placed nearly in the center of the sugar place. In it is a large brick arch, and there will also be stored the buckets and



SUGAR WOODS.

other necessary utensils. A fair sized sugar orchard will contain five hundred trees, scattered over about twenty acres of ground. More than five hundred buckets will be required for that number of trees, since two buckets can be placed at each of the largest trees. The buckets are made of wood or tin and hold about four gallons each.

for Monroe County, suffered for years from Sciatic Rheumatism. Tried everything without benefit. Was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mr. Rodes has recently won fame as the attorney in the celebrated Jester case. Mrs. C. R. Graham, of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hands to her head; she paid out \$3,000 with doctors before coming to Nevada. She now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen, of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form. She could not sleep without the aid of morphine. Tried everything without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford, of Reubens, Jewell Co., Kan., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities but was told that his case was hopeless. Took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in three days was cured. Mrs. Jessie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles, and general debility, was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds.

Anyone writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., will receive free of charge a 40-page illustrated magazine and a list of testimonials from men and women who owe their health and happiness to Weltmerism; also, much information on this science of healing.

Teaches His Method to Others.

The method of Magnetic Healing (Weltmerism), while a mysterious force, is at the same time a natural one, it is a power lying dormant in every human being brought into the world, and only needs to be brought to the surface. Prof. S. A. Weltmer in an interview stated that anyone who wished could learn this grand profession,

and any one who learns it can practice it. This has been abundantly proven by the many students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, of which Prof. S. A. Weltmer is President; and Prof. J. H. Kelly is Sec'y, for students of this school are now practicing with grand success, the healing art, through Weltmerism. It can be said without hesitancy that this is the best paying profession of the age for the students who are now practicing, report that they are earning from \$20 to \$50 per day; this is not strange, when one considers that disease is the greatest enemy of the human race. It is a foe to success, happiness and contentment, and this wonderful power, known as Weltmerism, dispels disease and vanquishes this foe without the aid of either medicine or the surgeon's knife; and then again, all other professions are overcrowded, while it is impossible to overcrowd a profession that cures disease, especially when statistics tell us that over eighty per cent. of the human race are suffering from diseases of every nature. Prof. S. A. Weltmer is very anxious to have others take up his noble profession and assist him in his grand work, for his method of healing has now become so famous that he must call upon others to aid him, he will, therefore, teach his method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism to any man or woman who will write him. He will teach them by mail or personal instructions, he makes the statement that a student becomes an efficient in the curing power as himself in ten days time. Any one who wishes to take advantage of this grand offer and become possessed of not only the grandest, but at the same time the best paying profession of the age, can do so by addressing Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo., who will send you full instructions free of charge.



PROF. KELLY Sec'y and Treas.

How Sugar is Made from Trees.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE first white settlers landed on the bleak shores of New England in December. When the warm days of the next spring began to melt the snow which covered the ground, the new comers discovered, among many other strange things about this wild country, that the native Indians had a way of making sugar from the trees of the forest. This art the white men soon learned from the red men, and their descendants in New England, Canada, and almost all of the northern United States have followed it to this day.

The Indians hacked the bark of the maple trees with their axes,

and caught the sap which bled from the cuts in rude wooden troughs. This sap they boiled until it thickened into sugar and then they stored it in little baskets of birch bark. The product was scanty and dark in color. The white men have changed the process and utensils by many ingenious inventions, so that the product has been improved in quality and the crop increased in quantity, until now the annual yield is hundreds of thousands of tons. In two respects, though, white men and red men have worked on equal terms. No tree but the maple has been found to yield sugar sap, and this sap will run only when the conditions of climate and weather are favorable.

The sugar maple tree grows to the best advantage in northern New England and Lower Canada. The best flow of sap will not be found so far south that the ground is not covered with snow throughout the winter. With the first warm days of February and March, as the snow begins to soften beneath the more direct rays of the sun, the sap in the maples begins to flow from the roots to the branches, on which the buds will soon be swelling.

The largest sugar orchards are usually back on the sides of the mountains, where the first growth of trees has not been cut. The maple trees in such a forest are often well towards a hundred feet tall, of enormous girth, and with their huge trunks extending far up among the tops of the other trees before they begin to branch. Other orchards of what are called "second growth" trees have sprung up in the pastures, nearer the villages, and these, although the trees are not nearly so large, are quite as productive, since the easier access to the sunlight which they afford seems to make the sap sweeter and more plentiful.

The sugar maker's work begins with shoveling out the road into the sugar place, for often at that time of the year the snow will be four feet deep there. The snow must also be shoveled off from the roof of the sugar house, and away from the door, so that an entrance can be made. The sugar house is a small, wooden building, placed nearly in the center of the sugar place. In it is a large brick arch, and there will also be stored the buckets and

\$500.00 IN GOLD FREE.

E	O	W	A
X	R	A	C
I	K	H	A
C	Y	O	G
O	N	C	A

HERE is a chance to use your Brains and Win \$500.00 in Gold. We want you to try and arrange these 20 jumbled letters in the block above to the left which properly arranged will spell the name of 3 large cities in the World, 2 of them being in the United States, the other one being a Mexican City. In making the 3 names the letters can be used in any order, as they appear and no letter can be used which does not appear. After you have found the 3 correct names but only find 2, you will receive a special prize for your trouble worth \$1. If you answer this puzzle at once you will not be disappointed. Some one is going to win the money and it may be you. Anyway it does not cost you any money to try. All we ask is that should you be a successful contestant that you will secure for us one yearly subscriber to our Handsome Illustrated Monthly Magazine. This we can truthfully say is the very hardest puzzle ever advertised, get out your Geography and look for these 3 cities. The correct names are only known to the President of this Company, in Boston, and will only be open to the public April 26th. This we believe is the only honest way of conducting a contest, as everyone has an equal chance. In case more than one person succeeds in finding the three correct names we will divide the money equally. In addition to the \$500.00 in gold we will give you an opportunity to Win

\$5.00 A WEEK FOR LIFE FREE

OR

\$250.00 A YEAR FOR LIFE FREE

WITHOUT ANY LABOR OR EXPENSE.

We are going to give to some one who has entered this contest and who comes, lies with the conditions as stated above an opportunity to win and secure from us without any labor or expense on their part \$5 every week during their natural life. We mean just what we say. There is no deception and no trickery about this offer. If you are the lucky one, and we hope you are, for some one will get it, we will send the winner every week during their natural life \$5, or else \$250 every year in advance for life, whichever way they prefer. Do not throw this contest aside and say, Oh, pshaw! I have answered puzzles before and never got anything, or else only secured a few cents for my trouble, for if you do this you will regret it as long as you live. Someone is going to win the money, and it may be you. No one can tell, anyway it does not cost you one cent, as we do not want any money from you. Are the prizes worth trying for? We think they are, for \$5 a week paid to you for life will keep one from the Poorhouse, and to those who have a small income, it will supply them with many necessities which one can do without in these hard times. Of course we are strangers to you, and you would be pleased to have you look us up. We are a responsible company with a paid up capital of one hundred thousand dollars, composed of honorable and well known business men of Boston. We waited to secure a large list of subscribers to our Magazine, and will leave no stone unturned to accomplish by honest methods only, our object. Every one entering this contest will receive honest treatment, and you will have the same chance whether you live in California or Massachusetts. Distance makes no difference. After you have carefully arranged the twenty jumbled letters into the three cities which you think are right, send your answer to us at once, and we will also send you full particulars how you can win \$5 a week for life. Don't delay as this is positively the last time this advertisement will appear in this paper.

The Bernard-Richards Co., Ltd., 102 E. Broad St., Boston, Mass.

poured into tin or wooden buckets. Although still a boiling hot liquid, the sugar hardens as it cools until it becomes a rich brown, granular mass, delicious to eat, and convenient and wholesome to use for sweetening food. Maple sugar sells for from fifteen to five cents a pound, depending upon quality and the earliness with which it can be put upon the market. The amount made varies greatly from year to year. An orchard of five hundred trees ought to yield a crop worth from fifty dollars to one hundred and fifty dollars. The annual yield of the Northern United States and Canada is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Chinese are said to have used clocks 800 years before the Christian era.

A WORD TO ADVERTISERS.

Many advertisers get discouraged attempting the placing of their own advertisements. They forget that there is an infinite amount of detail work when they first order and it soon becomes too burdensome to give a proper amount of attention to the regular routine of business. All this care and much money may be saved by putting the whole advertising business in the hands of experts who make it a business to know how and what to do in advertising. The agency of Nelson Chesman & Co., St. Louis, Mo., has had twenty-five years' experience and has been the foundation of success in the life of many advertisers, who have had the good sense to appreciate the greater value of expert work over their own amateur efforts. Every advertiser should write them on this subject.

LADIES WANTED TO CANVAS, AND APPOINT AGENTS, FOR CORSETS, BUSTLES, AND GREAT VARIETY OF SKIRTS, FROM MUSLIN UP TO SILK. SPLENDID PROFITS. SAMPLES FREE. J. E. WOOD & CO., 312 SO. WARREN ST., SYRACUSE, N. Y.

We Defy the World

To produce as good a wheel as the Arlington & Oakwood. Strictly high-grade, quality, material and construction unsurpassed. A marvel of beauty and strength, thoroughly tested and fully guaranteed. Shipped anywhere at lowest wholesale prices. Money refunded if not as represented.

No money in advance. \$25 "Arlington" \$16.50
\$40 "Arlington" \$18.50
\$50 "Oakwood" \$21.50

We belong to no trust or combine—employ no agents. You pay but one small profit—and our enormous cash sales enable us to give the best value ever offered. Illustrated Catalogue Free.

CASH BUYERS' UNION, 162 W. VAN BUREN ST., B-5, CHICAGO, ILL.

\$10.00 TO \$30.00
and expenses can be made **EVERY DAY** with our new **IMPROVED GRAPHO PHONE TALKING MACHINE**. **REDUCED TO \$5.00.**
You Can Make Big Money with our exhibits outfit. We furnish Talking Machines, Advertising Posters, Admission Tickets, and book of Instructions telling you how to conduct the business, how to make \$10.00 to \$30.00 daily. **YOU CAN EXAMINE THE OUTFIT** before paying for it. For full particulars call this office and mail to us. Address SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

Know Thy Fortune

You can learn in one hour, by printed instructions, to tell your fortune, and others, with the world-famed ZENOBA (Queen of Gypsies) fortune-telling cards. Each playing-card has its meaning printed upon its face. Amusing, interesting, sensational, instructive and profitable. Mailed sealed for 64 cents in stamps.

GYPSY CARD COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA.

RUPTURE CURED while you work. You pay \$1 when cured. No cure, no pay. ALEX. SPEIRS, Box 17, WESTBROOK, MAINE.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roasting of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by Oxen the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and Oxen is making them every day. In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxen was last year put to the test as a remedy for Rheumatism, and it made a record of absolute cures in Acute Rheumatism, frequently called rheumatic fever. Pericarditis (Inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart). Endocarditis (Inflammation of the living membrane of the heart). Subacute Rheumatism, sometimes called the disease of the nerves, or neuritis, or neuritis of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxen is

guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows.

Received OXEN O. K. Found it superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could bear for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but Oxen did it

and I am now walking about as well as ever. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Larson, Olympia, Wash., Feb. 1888.

The numerous letters we receive make it difficult to introduce them all, in order to more thoroughly introduce them.

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COMFORT

THE KEY TO

A Million and a Quarter Homes

R has the largest sworn circulation of any publication of any kind, anywhere.

The Only Monthly in the World
Printed in five to eight bright colors on a perfecting press, which takes the paper from rolls, prints and binds it complete.

It is regularly read by more people than any other paper or magazine in America. Its matter is original, copyrighted and cannot be found elsewhere.

Its watchword is "Onward and Upward." It presents something new, novel and entertaining for each and every member of each and every household.

IT IS THE PEOPLE'S PAPER.

TERMS: 50c. PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are entered on our books as soon as received, and are always dated from the current issue, unless otherwise ordered.

POSTAGE to all parts of the United States and Canada is prepaid by us.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. When ordering change in address, be sure to give former as well as new address. We cannot find your name on our books unless you do. Due notice given upon expiration of subscription.

COMFORT was started and its subscription price fixed on the basis of an 8 page paper it had been voluntarily enlarged to 12, 16 and 24 pages. When more than 12 pages are now given the subscriber can consider it a gift from the publisher.

Entered at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine,
as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT AUGUSTA, MAINE.

Boston Office, Haneck Building.
New York Office, Tribune Building. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

**Guaranteed Circulation:
ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES,
Each and Every Issue,**

Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

A suggestive bit of news is found in the statement of the sale of the original manuscript of Kipling's poem "The Absent Minded Beggar." This was written to aid the wives and children of the soldiers ordered to South Africa. Mr. Beecham of England has paid \$321 for the manuscript. His name is well known to all newspaper readers in connection with a famous patent medicine. Pills, poetry and philanthropy are a peculiar combination in fact as well as alliteration, but the three "p's" seem to meet through Mr. Beecham's act.

The well-known English dramatic critic Clement Scott wears a gold bracelet very much in evidence upon his left wrist. Men of the Latin races adorn themselves with jewelry that seems exclusively feminine and wear an ear ring or a bracelet for seeming love of display. With us of the Anglo-Saxon race such a display always presents two possibilities. We either suspect a peculiar mental twist or the possibility of a romance. When a plain middle aged Englishman, who seems the personification of common sense startles us in this way, we waver between a verdict of personal vanity or of hidden romance. It is much more entertaining to think that the bracelet is a keepsake with a history, for romance not ashamed to show its record of a capacity for feeling is rare enough in this prosaic age. The other possibility for such display shows such a trivial side to a man that the curiosity that the novel adornment excites develops into mirth at the mental gauge of a man who finds bracelet wearing his only hold upon public attention.

The unwritten side to the Boer war and the war in the Philippines is the side of the women who wait with silent unspoken dread for "news from the front." The tragedies of waiting and of strained expectation of heart-breaking news are too real to be expressed verbally. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe appreciated this to the full. The woman who could write the glorious swinging jubilant lines of the Battle Hymn of the Republic could also appreciate what war means to women. Her most ambitious work was the proposal to call a congress of the representative women of the world—in the interest of discouraging war. The congress never met but the credit for the idea lies with the woman whose name is associated with one of the most famous war poems. The English poems relating to the Boer war indicate two things—First, a wholesome admiration of the stubborn bravery of the little Dutch republic shown in hundreds of poems, and secondly a feeling that the prophecy of Kipling's Recessional is being realized in the sternest manner.

The movement toward building a memorial arch to the Navy has aroused a fresh interest in our naval heroes. One outcome has been the wish to bring to America the body of our first naval hero John Paul Jones. His story is a stirring romance, full of wild adventure; he was the first to raise our flag, the Stars and Stripes, over a craft that was launched in the waters of the Delaware. His daring conquests when he commanded the Bonhomme Richard are matters of well-known history. He died in Paris in semi-obscure and the knowledge of his last resting place has been lost for years. Recent investigations have fixed the place without the shadow of a doubt. It is a fitting and gracious recognition of his service to the nation to bring home his ashes to the land that he helped make great. We have won great distinction through the navy but John Paul Jones was the pioneer in our victories by sea.

It is an old proverb that republics are ungrateful but fulfillment of this purpose would go far to disprove the truth of the statement. By all means let us bring the body of our victorious naval commander to rest in the land he fought for so bravely.

Occasionally the people of America give evidence of the fact that all sense of beauty is not lost in a struggle for wealth. The many critics of our manners and our ideals continually assert that we are purely commercial and mercenary. One of the best arguments against this idea is the growing purpose to preserve historic buildings, mark historic sites and preserve natural beauties. All readers of our daily papers are aware of the growth of this sort of interest. No one project of the many in this line has met with warmer support than the attempt to save the beautiful Palisades of the Hudson from total destruction by a company of contractors who are blasting the rocks into oblivion. The club women of New Jersey have kept up a constant agitation in the subject. A commission urges that the land be made into a National park and placed under Federal jurisdiction. New York will be asked to contribute a large sum while the state of New Jersey does the same to compensate private property owners. The project should meet with universal acceptance, for the Palisades are an old historic landmark as well as a piece of majestic scenery.

It is a trite saying that history repeats itself. We become so accustomed to the idea that we fail to realize its truth and force until some definite illustration is given. Away back in the reign of George II, the ideas of speculation seemed to develop. France had a wild scheme known as the Law plan by which fortunes were to be made in a minute. England had its South Sea Bubble in which shares in a slave selling project rose in a few days from \$500 to \$5000. Hundreds of similar schemes developed from making butter from beechnuts to selling shares in a company the object of which was to be disclosed later. Of course the crash came in each instance. We smile patronizingly at the credulity of the victims and yet we find practical proof of the fact that history repeats itself because human nature does not alter. In Brooklyn a concern called the Franklin Syndicate promised to pay a dollar a week interest on sums of ten dollars and over. This was a rate of 520 per cent. a year. Did the shrewd people at the century's end show any better common sense than those of the earlier days? No, they flocked to the offices and deposited their wealth in sums from dollars to thousands. They even scorned the investigation by postal authorities and police. The old story of credulity and greed was repeated over and over again. Millions passed into the hands of the head of the "Syndicate" and history repeated itself. The bubble burst. Humanity has progressed greatly during the century. Improvements and inventions have changed the aspect of the world. The one unchanged thing is human nature and it is that human nature that causes history to repeat itself.

One is sometimes led to wonder what peculiar conditions produce the statistical mind. We are all familiar with paragraphs like the following: "The quantity of beer consumed annually throughout the world would form a lake three and three-quarters miles long, one mile wide and six feet deep and would have a commercial valuation of one billion and eighty millions dollars." Now what must be the mental characteristics of a man who will spend some hundreds of the precious minutes between the cradle and the grave in such intellectual gymnastics as that! If he were a human lightning calculating machine he might get the cold facts in figures of the annual consumption of beer or the size of the vault that would hold the Vanderbilt wealth in bullion. He might give facts and figures in regard to a thousand and one things that can be measured in arithmetical terms. But no, this statistical fiend must mix fancy with his facts and figures and summon up weird nightmares by the grotesque pranks that his fancy plays with his figures. He tells us that the oysters consumed in New York in one week laid end to end would reach around the world. Not content with this slippery circling of the globe with bivalves he contemplates the problem of the length of time it would take a man to swallow this equator of eatables. He deduces the figures that if the man swallowed two a minute it would take him until he was one hundred years old to dispose of the globe circling oysters. There seems to be a conspiracy among the newspapers to encourage this maddening process by using the paragraphs to fill in stray space. So whether one wishes it or not he finds himself the possessor of some such quaint and curious production of integers and imagination. The effect on the human mind is disintegrating. There is a strong temptation to verify the figures or else there is a haunting wish to indulge in idle speculation as to the facts and fancy of anything that will lend itself to figures. On the whole the statistical mind is probably an intensely egotistical one. It is the desire to astonish someone; to hear wonder expressed that a fact may be so curious; it is this that leads these imaginative arithmetical fiends to render life a burden to casual readers.



A SNAP! A BARGAIN.

This beautiful dress skirt, worth \$6.00 for \$2.98
SEND NO MONEY
with your order.

Cut this out and send with
order, giving waist measure,
length of skirt and width and
the size of the dress skirt to your nearest
express office. Examine it, and if as represented
and the biggest bargain you ever saw, pay
agent \$2.98 and expressage, and the
skirt is yours, or will send by mail, pre-
paid, on receipt of \$3.28. This is the
new 1900 style skirt, tailor made, of
black or blue Storm Serge, silk stitched
seams, double-bolt pleated back, trimmed
with silk cord and satin applique
trimmings, well lined, well bound.
Sizes up to 30 in. waist and 45 in.
length.

FREE — Write for our hand-
some Spring & Summer
Catalog, No. 20, of JACKETS,
Capes, Suits, Waists etc. A
postal brings it free.

H. PHILIPSON,
168 State St., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

We furnish samples free to agents,
Y. S. Post, Lube, Mc., sold \$132.79, retail \$16.
DELEGATE
REVIEW



Suits to Measure

\$6.00 to \$12.00.

BIG LINE. \$6.00 TO \$12.00.
GOOD ASSORTMENT up to \$18.00. We
send them to anyone, to be paid for after
received, tried on and found perfect in fit
and entirely satisfactory. A class of fine
tailoring possessing a distinctiveness in Style,
Workmanship, Finish and Fit which is found
one of the most fashionable city tailoring establish-
ments. FOR SAMPLES OF CLOTH of our
ENTIRE LINE of CLOTHING TAILORING
SUITS, JACKETS, JACKETS, JACKETS,
Waists, Suits, Caps, also tailoring
samples, fashion plate, plain
simple self-measurement blanks, cut this
out and send to us with a cent stamp and
postage and COMPLETE OUTFIT WILL BE
SENT TO YOU POSTPAID.
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.,
(Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly
reliable — Editor.)

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME

\$1.00 a day; four months work
guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for partic-
ulars. R. W. HUTTON & CO., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

Thin People Coletta cures extreme leanness and makes
MADE thin people plump in a natural healthful way.
PLUMP. Every ingredient is health-giving and fat pro-
ducing. Send \$1 for package of 20c. for trial package and
particulars to LEADER CO., 154 Nassau St., New York.

This offer is, without the least doubt, the greatest value for the least
money ever offered by any newspaper in the whole history of journalism.

* FULL SIZE *

2½ cts.

* LARGE TYPE *

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MUSIC**

a Copy
★ UNABRIDGED ★

We have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses of Boston to furnish our readers with ten pieces, full size, complete and unabridged Sheet Music for twenty-five cents. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high-priced copyright pieces or the most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet-music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type—including colored titles—and is in every first-class, and worthy of your home. 3,000,000 copies sold!

LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

PIANO OR ORGAN.

168 American Liberty March	Cook
103 Action March	March
247 Army Life Waltz	Waltz
181 Auld Lang Syne Variations	Strauss
187 Austrian Song, Op. 69, 1	Parry
215 Battle of Waterloo Descriptive	Anderson
179 Beauties of Paradise Waltz, 4 hands	Stratford
227 Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65 Bella di Cornelia, Potpourri	Elsom
213 Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
221 Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199 Boston Commandery March	Carter
109 Bridal March from Lohengrin	Warner
229 Bryant and Sewall March	Nokes
133 Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Clement
131 Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
237 Cherokee Roses Waltz, 4 hands	Behr
162 Chorale (Adagio) March—Two Step	Musso
247 Coming from the Races Galop	Notes
81 Corn Flower Waltzes	Wheel
211 Crack Four March	Cook
71 Crystal Dew Waltz	Ashton
235 Day Dawn Polka	Durke
163 Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Burke
117 Echoing Trumpets March	Cook
121 Electric Light Galop	Marcel
91 Estella, Air de Ballet, Very fine.	Notes
107 Ethel Polka	Durke
155 Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
231 Faust, Selections	Burke
77 Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233 Flirting with the Starlight, Waltz	Lasada
239 Flower Song, Op. 29	Lange
239 Flower Life, Op. 29	Spanier
177 Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49 Full of Ginger, March Galop	Clay
163 Golden Rain, Nocturne	Golden
147 Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Manz
53 Greeting of Spring, Op. 21	Schultz
185 Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richard
173 Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139 Home, Sweet Home, Transcription	Stack
17 Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosa
153 Jenny Lind polka	Muller
157 Last Hope, Meditation	Gottschalk
195 Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159 Lee's (Gen T.) On to Cuba galop	Durke
249 Lohengrin, Selections	Burke
142 London March—Two Step	Musso
149 Maiden's Prayer	Badrakowski
49 March W. Inde Galop	Johnson
240 Martha Selections	Krug
207 May Breezes, Four hands	Turner
215 McKinley and Hobart March	Burke
55 Memorial Day March	Welti
131 Monastery Bells, Nocturne	Welti
89 Morning Dew, Op. 18	Smith
61 Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201 Music Box, The Caprice	Liebich
137 My Love Polka	Eichner
125 My Old Kentucky Home, Variations	Cook
87 National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	Blake
175 National Songs of America	Bullak
135 National Psalm, Op. 81	Richards
123 Old Folks at Home, Transcription	Richards
123 Old Oaken Bucket, The, Variations	Durke
219 Oregon, Queen of the Sea, Two-step	Dinsmore
197 Orvette Waltz	Orvette
9 Our Little Agnes, Waltz	Spencer
79 Please Do Waltz	Gregoire
193 Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Rosai
167 Red, White and Blue Forever, March	Durke
143 Richmond March—two-step	Musso
245 Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127 Rustling Leaves, Idylle	Lange
33 Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	Cohen
149 Salem Witches March—Two Step	Musso
189 Schubert's Serenade, Transcription	Welti
161 Seven Wives, Variations	Woman
161 Smith's (General) March	Martin
21 Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22 Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
83 Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151 Storm, The, Imitation of Nature	Webber
73 Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109 Sultan's Band March	Brown
209 Sweet Long Ago, Transcription	Blake
118 Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103 Trifet's Grand March, Op. 182	Wetzel
223 Twilight Echoes, Song without words	Jewell
113 Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129 Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205 Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
77 Wistful Song of Light, Waltz	Conn
203 Wedding March of the Ocean	Richards
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PRICE OF ABOVE PIECES.

HYPNOTIZED COONS.

CAKE WALK AND TWO STEP

W. G. WILMARTH.

INTRODUCTION.

TRIO.

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F. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

POWER IN PIANO-PLAYING.

Very seldom does a musician recognize the fact that it takes a great amount of power to play a piano or organ, but science here as elsewhere has demonstrated that successful playing is by no means as easy as it looks and that the aggregate of power expended even in a simple piece is almost incredible.

The softest note seems to require absolutely no exertion and yet less force expended was what brought about the invention of the steam engine. It was the lifting of the kettle-lid which showed James Watt's the expansive power of steam, and it takes more power to sound the delicate note.

You can easily prove this by taking a handful of coins and placing them one after another on a single key until it is depressed and then weighing the pile. The weight of sufficient coins to produce this result will represent the exact force expended on a light note.

For fortissimo playing much greater exertion is necessary and calculations show that a force equal to six pounds weight is necessary at times on a single key.

It is more difficult to find the power necessary on chords, for there it is not necessary to expend three times the force used on a single key; for though undoubtedly a much greater force is used than on a single key it is spread out through the various fingers to the different keys. By this one readily sees why professional players so often have a remarkable development of muscles. At one time athletes were trained for contests with heavy weights but now nothing of the kind is done and light exercise calculated to develop the muscles, while, at the same time, making them flexible is the rule.

With this idea in mind one appreciates that a conscientious player unconsciously takes a great amount of physical exercise of the best character in even her ordinary playing.

To give a slight idea of the tremendous force really brought into play a few scientists figured up a test, taking as an example Chopin's last study in minor C. It takes two and a half minutes to play this and most careful tests and figuring showed that the lightest playing made a pressure of two and a half tons necessary in the aggregate, while over three tons was brought to bear by the heaviest play. After several lengthened tests of the same character it was estimated that the average hour in Chopin's music would require anywhere from twelve to eighty-four tons of force expended.

When, then, we read that Paderewski has such wonderful muscular development in his fingers that he can place his hand on a plate glass as if fingering a piano and break it by striking it sharply with his middle finger, we are no longer incredulous. It is told that he has thus broken glass of half an inch in thickness.

Though not exactly in line with the above it is well for COMFORT readers to know that Bach first invented the present system by which the thumbs are used as well as the fingers. Before his day only the four fingers were used, the thumbs hanging unused down over the edge of the keyboard.

A FEW WAR SONGS.

Many of the most popular of the songs sung in the Civil war were taken in whole or in part from other pieces. In the course of time and connection with the later thought the real origin of the music or words is often forgotten. A song sung on both sides of the line was "Maryland, my Maryland." Its extreme fervor in sentiment was owing to the fiery words of John Randall who early in the war adapted a poem to the German hymn, "Laurigae Horen-tius." The words as well as the music fired the Southern heart and its popularity extend-

ed into the Northern lines; but the verses were changed to suit the environment in the Northern army.

Before the outbreak of hostilities Dan Emmet, the great New York colored minstrel, wrote and sang "Dixie." It was one of those tunes which are only to be described as "catchy" and proved immensely popular. It was entirely a song of peace and happiness and only by accident became a war song. But more curious than this transition was the fate of an old and much neglected camp-meeting song, said to have originated and been used in colored meetings in Charleston, S. C., long before the war was considered as possibility.

In its present form it first came from the Second Battalion of Massachusetts Infantry, familiarly known as "The Tigers," who, at the outbreak of the war, were ordered to garrison Fort Warren in Boston harbor, for its defense. In this battalion was one of the best glee clubs in the city, and from this club the other soldiers learned the tune of this Methodist hymn. Many verses were improvised to the air. The fun concentrated on one of their number, a Scotchman named John Brown. Later a large number of the battalion enlisted in Col. Fletcher Webster's regiment, the 12th, and thus the song was carried into the war.

It has a rather varied history, being first a Methodist hymn, and then a camp song, then an abolition ode by Edna Dean Proctor and Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

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Many of our readers will recollect with pleasure the late Bishop Brooks of Trinity Church in Boston. Notwithstanding the fact that he was connected with churches all his life, and with the Episcopalian ceremonial service, he never became acquainted with the value of music, and it was impossible for him to appreciate even the rudiments of musical culture. It is said that at one time while talking to his organist, Mr. Parker, relative to a certain tune or chant that had been selected by the Bishop for a certain occasion, the organist suggested that it was inappropriate as the words should be joyous while the music selected was of a minor mode and ought to be major. This led to the request on the part of the Bishop to be informed as to the difference between the major and minor, which Mr. Parker illustrated first by playing a major chord and then a minor, repeating each several times, until the Bishop exclaimed, "Oh, yes, I see the difference; the minor chord sounds as if the major chord had been sat upon."

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The Ancient and Royal Game of
Golf.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ancient poet, who wrote about the time of Chaucer, but whose poem was modernized in 1710:

"To live a life, free from gout, pain and phthisic,
Athletic employment is found the best physic;
The nerves are by golfing hardened and strengthened;

And vigor attends it by which life is lengthened."

The origin of the game is lost in the mists of antiquity. It certainly was played as far back as any records exist of Scottish history, and it can be traced all through the centuries in England since the reign of Edward III. who ascended the throne in 1327.

At that time it was spoken of as the most ancient game of "cluch-dhesog," that being the old Gaelic name, but the Lowlanders called it "Cambrae."

The name "golf," may have been derived from the German *Kolbe* or the Dutch, *Kolf*, meaning a club. The Dutch game of Kolf differed very materially from the Scotch golf, but the Hollander knew so well how to make the hard balls used in the game that the Scotch imported them in such large numbers as greatly to injure home industry. The protectionists of the day demanded a prohibitory tariff, and in the year 1618 a law was enacted prohibiting the importation of the balls, a reason being given for such legislation that "na small quantite of gold and silver is transported yierlie out his Hienes' kingdom of Scotland for the bailes."

In 1457 the good people of Scotland became so infatuated with golf that they neglected all other amusements and especially the art of shooting with a bow and arrow, which was accounted a necessary accomplishment for all. Remonstrances were useless so the Scottish parliament prohibited the playing of golf, the enactment declaring that it be "decreed and ordained that golf be utterlie cryit doun and necht usit."

The act became a dead letter, the people played just as much as ever, and in 1491 a very angry proclamation was issued by the king, in which he ordered that, "Futeball and golfe be forbidden. Item, it is statut and ordanit that in no place of the realme there be usit, Futeball, Golfe or uther unprofitabill sportis, under the pain of fourtie shillinges," a sum equal to a hundred dollars of our money to-day.

Whether James IV. after issuing this proclamation found it impossible to stop the game, or that he was convinced the game was not as bad as his advisers had painted, it is a fact that in the very next year he figured as a player on the links and to the end of his life was a patron of the sport.

Golf obtained a foothold in England at the end of the fifteenth century, and a club still exists near London which was established in 1608. Charles I. was so much attracted to the game that he could never go near the links without playing. He was engaged in it on the Irish links, on his visit to Scotland in 1611 when an intimation was conveyed to him of the rebellion in Ireland. He, with very great reluctance, threw down his stick and returned to Holyrood Palace.

James II. was exceedingly devoted to the sport and gave the St. Andrew's Golf Club the right to use the word "royal" in connection with the game and the club.

In his day the word was written "goff" and sometimes "gouff" and "gowff." From these spellings we get the pedantic pronunciation, so much affected, "gawf."

It was claimed that golf was the most perfect of athletic sports and that it was adapted to the weak as well as the strong, though writer in 1743 declared that the "weak become strong, the feeble take on the strength of giants" if they play the game with frequency.

"Golf and the Man, I sing, who em'lous plies
The jointed club; whose balls invade the skies."

A poet wrote in 1742, in defence of the game, and through a long epic described all the movements from the "teeing ground" to the approach of the last hole, when the excitement became very great.

"Meanwhile the Chiefs for the last hole contend,
The last great hole, which does their labors end."

Golf was introduced into the United States ten years ago but it was not until 1894 that the United States Golf Association was established. In the short space of five years nearly a hundred clubs have been formed and affiliated with the Association, and at least as many more clubs exist which are not listed. All however play according to the rules of the Association which are practically the same as those of the oldest club, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrew.

Golf is universally played. Clubs exist in Cape Colony and the Transvaal, in India and China, Australia and New Zealand. In fact wherever the white man has taken up his burden the royal and ancient game of Golf has gone with him to beguile him in the hours of leisure.

The Golf Club of Sydney, New South Wales, recently gave a golf dinner to Lord Hampden. The menu was suggestive of the game. It read as follows:

The Drive Off: Oysters-halved in two.
A Spoon Shot—Clear Turtle Soup.

Out of the Water—Whiting—foozled.

The Approach—Fillets of beef—grassed
Vol au vent—mashed.

The Bunker—Saddle of Lamb—sliced.

A Foul Shot—Spatchcock—on the green.

A Dangerous Hazard—Mayonnaise of Prawns.

Dormy Two—Ice on the ball.

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The Last Hole—Gobble of Anchovies.
Dessert.

Coffee.

All Down.
Unlike many other sports all can play. The old and young, mothers and daughters alike join in the sport and while amusing themselves inhale the pure air, develop the muscles and give tone to the body.

As amusement is as necessary as food, it is well to encourage healthy pastime for, as Freeth wrote in 1790:

"Mankind will ever their pleasure pursue,
The mind must be ever employ'd;
The fancy to please is the motive in vein,
And each will his hobby horse ride.
Some take up their bats and the cricket ball bang,
Some brisk in the Five Court are seen;
Of the sports in the field many fondly harangue,
And some boast the sports of the green."

Long may golf live to give healthy pleasure to our young men and maidens.

Kindergarten Piano Instruction.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



I
T
F
ever there was a time when the young mind was helped over the disagreeable paths of learning it surely is now, when all sorts of ingenious contrivances are labored over to interest and at the same time to instruct. And in many prominent cities here in our own country and abroad, there has been accepted a sort of, one might say, sugar-coated system of promoting a musical interest in mere babies without inspiring in them, at the outset, the dread of piano practice. Give a child an explanation of a theory and he will puzzle over it and then not understand, but an object lesson he can soon master and will never forget.

Miss Evelyn Fletcher, daughter of Ashton Fletcher, Queen's Council, a young woman of Canadian birth, is the inventor of the Fletcher System.

Miss Fletcher studied for five years in England, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland with the best masters, violin, singing, harmony and piano, and on her return to Canada she began a career as teacher. She immediately saw the urgent need of interesting children who had a dislike for the drudgery of studying the piano, and after studying herself children and their needs, she worked out the Frobel principles and found an easier way to teach the little ones without having all their natural love of music crushed out by science.

Her idea is to prepare their minds with the primary knowledge so at the end of the course they can be put at the piano, the hard, uninteresting part over, with only pleasurable work ahead. Everything in the way of information is conveyed to the child's mind dressed in holiday attire, and games and stories hold the attention. There are musical note blocks; time division blocks; a tone ladder for scale building and a detachable key board. Ear training games and games for rhythm, technique and musical history.

First, the variety of notes shaped in wood the children become familiar with as with different toys. Then they draw them on the blackboard until they know each one. They are then told that the staff is the home of the notes and each note has its own room.

Fourth, an apparatus of five lines of tape, i.e. the home, is put in front of the children, on a table. Each line is named twice; 1st, when Miss Treble Clef resides there, and 2nd when Mr. Bass Clef is at home. The spaces are taught in the same way. Then the notes are put into their various rooms by the children. Later they draw all this on the blackboard and the child making the most correct reproduction of staff and notes in scale, is awarded a crown of paste-board on which is printed musical characters.

Table exercises prepare the hand positions. In teaching scales the keys of the adjustable key board are removed and put back at will. And the children play a game where a set of Majors go out to walk, starting with Major C. Then the Minor family go for a promenade, with Mr. C. Minor leading.

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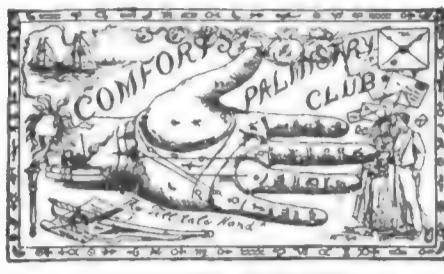
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CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impression of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address, and name de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily, but not so hard as to injure the paper. Keep them for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is another article used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

I HAVE a few questions to answer this month and I would like to have you all feel free to ask questions. I have no doubt that it is of more interest and value to most of you to have questions answered than it is to give up the entire department to readings.

What are the worry lines? They are the fine lines running across the hand principally across the life line into the palm.

What does it signify when the line of health comes down across the fate line and touches the life line half way between the center of the palm and the wrist, then returns again to the fate line, back to the life line and so on to the end of both lines? This would signify that the health would be broken up considerably at the point indicated by the juncture of the health and life lines. If the line touches the fate line I should say that the ill health would in some way affect the career of the subject.

The first hand which I shall read belongs to "Alone—Iowa." As I have many times told you a photograph, no matter how well it is taken is not as easy to read as a smoked paper impression. This one, however, shows a great many fine lines, worry lines, I should say, a long life line free from worry lines during the last half and a fairly good hand on the whole. This lady has improved in her natural disposition very much. She is inclined to be morbid and dissatisfied by nature, but she has trained herself to have courage and hope for the best. She has had or will have a good many crosses to bear until she is about thirty-five, after which her life will be exceptionally smooth and easy. There is a severe illness or a deep-seated grief that comes to her not far from that age, but from that time on, life will be much pleasanter and better in every

way. There are a good many fine influences rising from her life line, but I do not see very much money for her. An early love affair comes to nothing and from the age of twenty-five onward she will have trouble with matters connected with the affections. I do not think she will ever marry, but after the age of thirty-five, as I have said, if she does not marry it will be from her own desire not to and she will be very successful in some way. She is very artistic and philosophical; she would make a fine musician; she has great tact and delicacy in dealing with others and is dainty and refined in all her tastes. On the whole hers is a fairly good hand, the worst coming early in life, so that she may look forward to a pleasant middle and old age. She will live to be very old.

"T. T." shows another hand full of fine worry lines, which indicate a nervous temperament and one which will make trouble for itself all through life. The health will never be very strong and the subject will not live to be more than forty. The impression is somewhat blotted in the center, but I should judge that the marriage which takes place about the age of twenty will result in a divorce and that the subject will be very despondent and suffer a great deal during the process. He or she, I do not know which, is very imaginative, almost mor-

bid in tendency and will be tempted to commit suicide. The temptation, however, will be resisted and the patient will die a natural death. There are very good qualities indicated which if rightly applied will make this person successful and wealthy. The greatest lack is of self-reliance and perseverance and the greatest fault is thin morbid sensitiveness. If T. T. will overcome these he or she may have a long, happy and successful life.

"K. F." shows another peculiar hand and sends only the impression of the left, which is never satisfactory for a complete reading. This hand also shows many worry lines crossing the life and the fate line. There is a lack of courage and self-reliance here, but not so noticeable as in the last hand read. This subject has a very imaginative way of telling a thing so that her enemies would accuse her of exaggeration and misrepresentation. She will not however, mean to do anything of the sort, but she loves to make herself interesting when she talks. A want of tact and weak will are indicated by the thumb. She will never marry, but will live to a good old age. She will have some money and live in comparative comfort all her days. She is religious in her tendencies, moral and upright in character, but very peculiar in many of her ideas. She will travel a great deal and one of her journeys will be a long one that will affect her after-life in many ways.

I have good many questions asking about marriage lines. Marriage lines are not necessarily marriages that are sanctioned by law or Church rites; they are those in evidence of a love that unites heart and soul. Though there are indications in different parts of the hands

on lines and mounts corroborating and substantiating them—the marriage lines proper are found on the percussion side of Mount of Mercury, running horizontally with line of heart and between that line and Mercury's finger. The intensity of the affection is portrayed by the depth and length of the line; if more than one line is

in evidence you must look for sign of widow or widowerhood, or divorce.

The line at its best should be clear, and well on to the Mount of Mercury, sloping slightly toward heart line.

The line being close to the finger, the marriage

will be early in life, between eighteen and twenty-one; midway between finger and heart

line, it will occur nearer twenty-eight, and

close to the heart, at thirty-five or later. The exact date is usually established by the line

coming from the Mount of Venus and reaching the life line (already referred to in the reading of the line of life). If the line is

forked and one end is drooping to the heart

line, there will be divorce; and if a very fine

line is traced from it to the Mount of Venus,

with an island on it, a separation without

process of law will take place; if the line

crosses mount of Mercury and ends on Apollo,

the subject loses caste by the marriage.

Some of the modern cheirologists hold that

branches from the mount of Moon to fate line

are marriages, but I do not think it correct.

Two marriage lines on the percussion will

mean a love affair after marriage, unless widowerhood or divorce is shown on the line.

Marriage lines sending branches on Mount of Apollo, the subject marries an artist of renown;

widow or widowerhood is shown by a break in

the marriage line, cut by a line at end, or by a

spot or point on the line, or line ending in a

star on Mercury. Small vertical lines above

the marriage line on mount of Mercury are

children born, if line is clear; if line is faint,

the children are to be born; one of the lines

entering the finger of Mercury is honors for

that child.

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A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in his life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impresario to appear in concert halls in the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the working of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

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the children are to be born; one of the lines

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Hezekiah Butterworth Tells How to Write a Story.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE postman had presented me with one of those bulky, long envelopes which would be authors learn to recognize as far off as they can see the carrier. The seventh successive editor "thanked me for the privilege of being allowed to examine my story, but 'regretted,' and so forth, as usual. And yet I had felt sure that it was a very good story. What was the matter with it?

A neighbor's little daughter happened to bring me, that very day, a school exercise returned to her as not satisfactory to the teacher. She came to me, she said, because she knew I worked for one of the papers, and so would know all about writing. Without knowing as much as she thought I did, it still was easy to show her how the little essay could be changed so as to be more likely to please the instructor.

The experience gave me an idea. I would take my story to Hezekiah Butterworth, who is a master in the art of story writing, and ask him if I might read it to him, to have him tell me what was the matter with it.

I was fortunate enough to find Mr. Butterworth at home. He very kindly said at once that he would willingly hear me read the story, and would help me if he could. When I had finished reading he said, "That is a capital story. It is not for any fault in the piece of work itself, I think, that it has been sent back to you, but I imagine on account of your choice of a subject."

"A very distinguished editor, one of the most successful men in his profession in the country, wrote me only a little while ago: 'the day of short stories, simply as stories, has passed. Fiction, to-day, must be absolutely up to date. The stories which will sell are those which deal with some phase of the every-day life about us. The only exceptions to this rule are the stories into which an element of psychic interest is introduced, and holiday stories.' By the latter I think he meant," said Mr. Butterworth, "tales pertaining to any special day or time, like Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Washington's Birthday."

"Your story is good, but it does not meet with these requirements. Now suppose you try your hand at writing a holiday story."

"I think I will try a Thanksgiving story," said I.

"Very good," said my adviser, "only it will probably be in next year's edition that it must be published."

"Why so?" I asked, for it was then only September.

"Because the editors of the leading magazines and weeklies make up their holiday numbers months in advance. Some of them take the manuscripts for these off with them for the long summer vacation, to be digested at leisure. Others like to get the whole business out of the way before vacation. My own Christmas and Thanksgiving stories are all written and dispatched before the last of May."

"Where do you get your ideas for Thanksgiving stories?", I asked. "Where will I look for materials?"

"Go to old local books and papers," said Mr. Butterworth. "Town histories, anniversary addresses and sermons. I never lose an opportunity to read over such documents. The library at Worcester has made a specialty of collecting such material, and the Boston Public Library is rich in it also. In almost every paper you will find at least one picturesque incident recounted, or anecdote told, which will give you an idea. Then build your story up around that, having due regard for the accuracy of the historical associations which you introduce."

"Once get the central idea, the motif, and the rest will come. The characters will present themselves, and work out for you in your mind the things they ought to do. They will haunt you, and give you no rest, until the story is written."

"Are you being haunted that way now?" I asked, secretly hoping that if I could get a glimpse of these ghostly visitors some part of their attentions might be diverted to myself.

"I've just one Thanksgiving story left in my mind," said Mr. Butterworth. "Except for that I've written myself completely out."

"Would you be willing to tell me what it is?" I asked, trembling at my own audacity, but hurrying on to say. "And then tell me how you are going to write it?"

"Why certainly," was the answer. "This is it."

Now this story has not been written yet. That is, it had not been written the last time I saw Mr. Butterworth, because he had had so much else to do. It certainly was very good of him to let me and the public into the secrets of his workshop in that way, and I hope no one will be so mean as to steal his idea and write out the story before he does. Although if anybody did this I am quite sure the manuscript would be returned in one of those bulky envelopes, because the editors would be sure to prefer to wait for the version of the same story which Mr. Butterworth is to write.

"This is the thought," Mr. Butterworth continued. "Many years ago an old Indian, living at Quinnebaug, heard that the white men had landed on Shawmut, and were building themselves houses there in which to live. Taking with him his twelve-year-old son, the two walked all the way to Shawmut, now Boston, a distance of fifty miles, carrying with them a bushel and a half of corn which they had raised. This was the first Indian corn ever seen by the white settlers of Shawmut. Quinnebaug was where Dudley now is."

"The Indian boy lived to be a very old man, and when he was a hundred years old he went to Boston for another visit. This time he was invited to come, as the guest of the town, to a Thanksgiving dinner given him in commemoration of that other visit which he had made with his father so many years before. This was when Governor Shute was in office, and the Indian visitor was no doubt entertained at

the Province House, then the best known "tavern" of the place, and standing where the Boston Tavern now stands. In it was a famous banquet hall, in which the dinner was no doubt served. Cannot you see in your imagination, "said Mr. Butterworth, "what a notable scene that room would present? Governor Shute and the venerable savage would be sitting at the head of the table, with the distinguished men of the colony in the picturesquely dress of that time, below them. Here," he added, "is the idea and the setting for a story. Plot, characters and incidents will come to you when you begin to study the situation."

I drew a long breath, unconscious until I did so of how closely I had been following him. "How did you get this particular idea?" I asked.

"I went out to Dudley not long ago, to read a poem at a gathering there. A minister preached an anniversary sermon, and in it told of these Indians and their two visits. Afterwards I looked up the historical records of the visits."

"Which of your Thanksgiving stories do you like best?" I asked.

"I think," said the writer, stopping a moment to bring the work of other years to mind, "that I like best 'Wych Hazel, the Jew,' the story of the old Jew's money jars, and the strange tree which blossomed in the late autumn, when all the other flowers are dying or dead. That, and 'The Haunted Oven,' the story of the loaves of bread baked on a gravestone. The gravestone, you know, was an old one which had been replaced by one of newer pattern. A workman used the broad, flat stone to repair the bottom of a brick oven, and the letters on it impressed what was taken to be a warning on the bottom of the loaves of bread."

"How long does it take you to write a story?" I continued, anxious to know the whole business.

"Two or three days, when the fever is really on."

"And how do you feel after the story is done?" I persisted. "I mean do your characters take such hold on you that when you have killed off a favorite you go out and walk the streets, as Dickens is said to have done after he wrote the chapter in which the story of the death of Little Nell is told?"

"Not just that, I think. I always feel tired, though, and all worn out, and don't want to do anything for a day or two only, just lie around and rest, and be let alone. While I am resting I like to have agreeable persons around me; and the less they know the better."

The last words raised in me a sudden, awful fear. When I had come he had seemed glad to see me. "Mr. Butterworth," I faltered, "have you just finished a story?"

He looked at me a moment, questioningly, and saw the point. "Oh, no! No!" he cried in protest. "I didn't mean that. I mean folks who talk philosophy, and science, and such things, when I want to rest."

I wonder if that was just his kindness of heart, trying to make me feel comfortable again.

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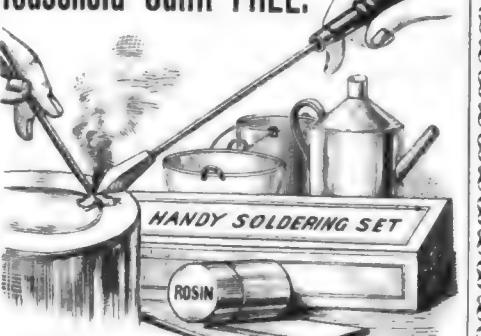
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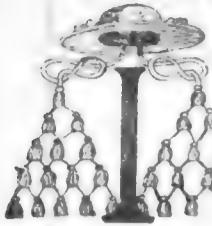
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Ancient and Mediæval Head-gear.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It is impossible to fix upon a time in human history of which it may be positively said that members of the human family did not wear something for the protection or adornment of the head. The crown, the ancient and universal mark of kings, princes and nobles,

at first a fillet of gold worn to confine the hair and prevent its being dishevelled in the wind, developed in time into turban-like structure. It was from this symbol of power and authority that the various forms of official head-covering have been evolved—the mortar, the bicocket of the King's retainers, the bonnet of the Doges of Venice, the mitre of the Bishop, the Cardinal's hat and the papal tiara.

Among the Orientals, the covering of the head was anciently one of the outward signs and expressions of grief. And it is not improbable that the square handkerchief which the Bedouin folds so that, when placed upon the head, the three corners will hang down over the shoulders and back, leaving the face exposed, is of very early origin, and was used by the Israelites in Scripture times, at least at weddings or as part of holiday attire. The hats mentioned in the book of Daniel may have been fillets of gold to which the wearers were entitled, being nobles; or cloaks by which their heads could be covered in case of need. If the latter, they were an early form of the hood which became the wearer of all classes in many parts of Europe in the Middle Ages of Christianity. Official head-dresses were provided, with the other sacerdotal garments to be worn by the sons of Aaron. They are called "bonnets" in the King James version of the Old Testament Scriptures, and the term is explained to mean caps, probably cup-shaped, of fine texture and workmanship. They were distinct from the mitre of the high-priest, which was to consist of a coil of twisted linen covered with blue lace and ornamented in front with an inscribed golden plate.

There are certain indications that some sort of head covering was worn constantly in ancient times, both in-doors and out, and that whatever came into general use in the Middle Ages under the name of hat, cap, bonnet, or hood, was intended to be worn in addition to the other. We have for example, a representation of the Venetian Doge's bonnet in the sculptured arms of the Foscari. In a portrait of the Doge Loredano, we see this bonnet worn over what resembles a plain linen night-cap, having strings which fall down to the shoulders. In France, early in the fifteenth century,



HOOD—XV. CENTURY.

The term bonnet, under different lingual variations, was applied in Western Europe in the fifteenth century, and even earlier, to a distinctive kind of head-gear, probably originating in a particular kind of material, or referring to the quality of the material used in the manufacture. It soon came to be applied to a rimless cap of soft material worn both in and out of doors.

It is interesting to recall the legend accounting for the invention of felt, which has become such an important material in the manufacture of head-gear. It was used for the first cap made in France. The legend also accounts for the acceptance of St. Clement by the hatters of Continental Europe as their patron saint and for the celebration, by the hatters, of St. Clement's day on the 23rd of November. That saint is generally supposed to have been the fourth occupant of the Episcopal See of Rome, holding the same about the years 91 to 100 of the Christian era. Those were times of persecution and Clement, being obliged to flee therefrom, suffered from blistered feet in his wanderings. To avoid this discomfort he put some refuse wool in his sandals. He found that after a time the wool became worked by his feet into a uniformly compact substance. He subsequently caused this substance to be manufactured (an improvement upon his process of manufacture,) and applied to various articles of apparel.

It has sometimes been stated that hats were not worn in Europe until the fifteenth century. The fact is that the distinction was not made until subsequent to that period, between the various articles of head-gear. It is certain, however, that the use of what we now call hats, in contradistinction to caps and hoods, became more general in that century than ever before, albeit without at once affecting the popular use of the hood.

The hood originated in the pointed cap or capooch, the adoption of which in the thir-

teenth century gave the name to the religious order of the Capuchins. This order was a branch of the Franciscans, and its founder claimed that the capooch was of the same pattern as that worn by St. Francis. The portion of the hood intended to cover the shoulders was called, as its form changed by lengthening and narrowing, the tippet or liripoop. The tippet being twisted about the hood, caused it to assume the form of a turban. And some one tried the experiment of putting

his head into the opening in the side of the hood intended for the face, and of wearing the hood horizontally instead of vertically as had been intended. Thence the hood drifted from a useful and comfortable article of dress into a merely ornamental appendage, and began to go out of fashion. For a while it was carried slung over the shoulders at the end of the tippet, so that it could be worn on the head if desired. It finally became the mark of a scholastic degree, as in our modern colleges. The liripoops and tippets, after they had constituted in a variety of ways a part of the head-gear, became a part of clerical and scholastic dress, surviving possibly in the stole of the clergy of the present. It is surmised that it survives also in the hat of modern times, and particularly in the long solemn hat band of crape or silk worn in some localities by all who follow a corpse to the grave, and in other places, in the scarfs worn over the shoulders at funerals.

The Fifteenth Century probably presents the greatest variety and most extravagant fashions in the matter of head-gear to be found in our review of the subject. There were felt hats with broad brims turned up both back and front and attached to the crown by a button,



FROM HOOD TO HAT.



often jeweled. There were caps with triangular crowns; and hats suggesting those worn at the present day by coal-heavers and longshoremen and called sea 'westests. Fur was largely used in the manufacture and decoration of hats; some were lined with it, others were entirely covered with it. Fur hats were worn even by the common people; and it was to express his sympathy with the bourgeois that Louis XI. of France wore such a hat; and to indicate his appeal to the religious feeling of the times, he kept it stuck full of little sacred images. The gallants of his day wore hats of the same style, but much bedecked with feathers and jewels. The eccentricities of the English were illustrated by a variety of shapes in hats, among which the steeple hat of Edward IV.'s time was the most sensible, being designed to air the crown of the wearer's head.

The head-gear of the Middle Ages may be studied best by examining the pictures painted at that time. These reveal some curious phases of the subject. In the fifteenth century lived the Italian painter, Filippino Lippi, whom Browning has done much to immortalize, though some of his paintings, altar pieces, of his, representing the "Adoration of the Magi," are extant. In these he evidently depicted some of the hats worn in Italy in his day; if not, he possessed a genius for designing fashions in millinery that would have been his fortune in these days. But we have other evidences of the luxurious ornamentation in feathers and jewels bestowed upon the head-gear in Italy in that age. We find the Italian men adopting suggestions for their hats from the vegetable world and from like sources, precisely as the women of more modern times have done. In Lippi's pictures we have hats evidently suggested by a pile of melons; others in imitation of bee-hives and conch-shells. His pictures include all kinds of fantastic hoods, and fezzes plain and ornamented. Uccello, a painter of battle scenes, decked his Italian soldiers in the most fantastic head-gear imaginable, making them appear like the bearers of so many Chinese lanterns upon their shoulders. On the other hand, Pisano, in his picture of "St. Anthony and St. George," places upon the head of the latter saint a sensible hat—a broad-brimmed straw, having only a feather to distinguish it

ITALIAN.

from that of a present day Southern farmer. Altogether, it would seem that there has been no style of hat, cap or bonnet adopted since then, that had not its prototype in the fifteenth century.

While these fantastic extravagances depicted by Lippi were in vogue, the fez was imported from the East and became popular all over Europe, assuming varying heights in various countries. It was usually worn with long full hair, and proved a sensible and admirable style of head dress. But in England, where the steeple crown and other idiosyncrasies were tolerated, it excited the criticism of the moralists, who were perhaps scandalized by a fashion derived from the Mahometans.

Regarding the color of hats much of interest might be said. In Italy at one time bankrupts were compelled by law to wear green hats. The white hat was the badge of political party in Ghent once in the fourteenth century; and later at Oxford, it was supposed to be the badge of Radicalism. The severity of the form in the steeple hat was offset by its tall crown, for example. The hats depicted by Lippi, copied their colors, as well as their forms from nature, and we find in his pictures hats with green crowns, gold trimmings and rims with straw colored linings.

Probably the most curious fact among those gleaned in our desultory ramble through the various kinds of millinery in use in the Middle Ages, is this: the fashions we have thus far examined were intended for the exclusive use of men. It was for men's heads that all these extravagances were devised. The men in that age would have been the objects of the law prohibiting the wearing of tall hats in a theater, had there been such laws in those days. Precisely when these elaborate styles became the object of feminine envy, it would be impossible to decide. But it was probably as the fashions for men began to settle down to the degree of conservative simplicity which they have since maintained. We find on the other hand the styles of feminine head-gear constantly changing and ever of varied forms; and now again returning to something that has been tried in a previous age. The cavalier's hat of the age of Charles II becomes the Gainsborough in the time of the painter of that name, and has come in vogue at different periods since. And now when we have a sex distinction in head-gear generally recognized, the man's hat is again made the object of woman's aspiration, and is from time to time appropriated by her; without, however, her fully relinquishing her hold upon the elaborate



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styles she found in use among the men of the Middle Ages, and from which she has succeeded in varying but little. Perhaps there is the suggestion for a philosophical screed here, but upon that we shall not at present enter.

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TURBAN—XV. CENTURY.

lengthening and narrowing, the tippet or liripoop. The tippet being twisted about the hood, caused it to assume the form of a turban. And some one tried the experiment of putting



KITCHEN CHATS.

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THE chafing dish is king, and everyone is looking for new recipes with which to regale and surprise their friends at the evening lunch.

It is said that the chafing dish originated with the Israelitish women, and that it has been used through each succeeding generation by both men and women.

For those who have plenty of money there are little silver chafing dishes about four inches square, which are used for serving a rabbit or a bird individually. There is no lamp under this small dish, but there is hot water in the boiler, to keep the bird warm; of course it is cooked before it is placed in this small dish.

A tray should always be used under the chafing dish, as there is so much danger of setting fire to the tablecloth from the overflow of the alcohol, when no tray is used.

When a recipe calls for milk or cream, the hot water pan should be used in all cases, to avoid all possibility of burning; but when something is to be sauted, or fried, this pan is omitted and the dish is placed directly over the flame; constant watching and turning and shaking is necessary, however, as the alcohol flame is hot and comes in direct contact with the metal pan. Oysters are usually cooked in the blazer only, at first, and then, when they are plump, if a sauce is to be added to them, the hot water pan is introduced underneath.

We have some good recipes for oysters cooked in the chafing dish which possibly some have not yet tried.

Put a pint of oysters into the blazer and when the edges begin to curl put the blazer into the hot water pan and add the seasonings, one flat teaspoon salt, a little paprika and a tablespoonful of lemon juice. Beat the yolks of two eggs, add a little of the oyster liquor to the yolks, from the pan, and then add the eggs to the oysters. Serve on slices of buttered toast.

CREAMED OYSTERS.

Parboil one pint oysters, drain and set aside in a warm place. Make a sauce by using two tablespoons butter, four tablespoons flour, one-half teaspoon salt, a little pepper and two cups of hot milk. Add the oysters, and, if desired, a teaspoonful of onion juice. Serve on buttered toast.

This sauce may be used for any creamed dish—shrimps, sweetbreads, mushrooms, fish or chicken.

FRIED OYSTERS.

Wash and drain the oysters and season with salt and pepper. Roll in fine crumbs, then in beaten egg (to which a tablespoonful of cold water has been added) and then in the crumbs again. Put some olive oil or a little butter into the blazer and when hot put in the oysters and brown them on both sides.

This last recipe should not be attempted for a large number of guests, as it takes sometime to do it, and only a few oysters can be done at a time; not more than four people should be regaled in this way, as, by the time the hostess has her own ready, every one else has finished.

LOBSTER A LA NEWBURG.

Remove the lobster meat from the shells and cut into small pieces. Two medium sized lobsters are used for this recipe. Put into the blazer four tablespoons butter and when it is melted add the lobster and let it cook five minutes. Then add one-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon pepper, two tablespoons each of brandy and sherry wine and a grating of nutmeg. Beat the yolks of four eggs and stir thoroughly into them one cup of cream and then stir both into the lobster mixture. Serve as soon as the eggs thicken the sauce.

DEVILLED CRABS.

Make a white sauce by melting one tablespoon butter and adding one tablespoon flour and one cup hot milk. Then add the yolks of three hard boiled eggs, which have been rubbed through a sieve, and season with salt and pepper and a teaspoonful lemon juice and the same amount of wine. Add one cup of crab meat and one-fourth cup canned mushrooms cut in small pieces. Serve on toast.

Here is the French fashion of serving sardines.

Remove the tails and skins from a box of sardines and warm them in the oven. It is necessary to have two chafing dishes to make this recipe. In one blazer heat some butter or oil and in it saute some small squares or round or diamond shaped pieces of bread. In the

other blazer, which should be over the hot water pan, put the yolks of four eggs, well beaten, with one teaspoon each of vinegar and made mustard, one-fourth teaspoon salt and one tablespoon butter. Stir the sauce until it is quite thick; then serve the sardines on the pieces of toast and pour the sauce over them.

CREAMED PEAS.

Drain, rinse and cover with boiling water one can of peas and set aside; melt two tablespoons butter, add one tablespoon flour, one teaspoon sugar and one-half teaspoon salt; when thoroughly blended, strain and add the peas with a third of a cup of milk and let cook until the liquid begins to bubble.

CHEESE FONDUE.

Melt two tablespoons butter and add one teaspoon flour, one-half teaspoon each of soda and mustard, a little pepper and gradually three-fourths of a cup of milk; when the sauce boils add one-fourth pound cheese cut into small pieces and one-half cup stale bread crumbs. Stir until well melted and blended and then add three eggs which have been beaten until light and serve at once.

ENGLISH MONKEY.

Melt one tablespoon butter and add one cup cheese; when melted add one cup fine bread crumbs which have previously been allowed to stand in one cup of milk; then add one egg lightly beaten.

MEXICAN RABBIT.

Take one pint of tomato pulp from which the seeds have been removed and season with onion. Put a heaping tablespoon of butter into the blazer; add the tomato and when hot six eggs, slightly beaten, half a teaspoon of salt and a little pepper. Stir until the contents are of a creamy consistency. If possible, serve on brownbread toast.

Never serve anything on crackers when you can get toast. Almost everything is ten per cent. at least better when served on hot buttered toast than when served on cold crackers.

If you must use crackers, then toast and butter them.

CREAMED MUSHROOMS.

Melt three tablespoons butter in the blazer and in it saute the mushrooms; sprinkle them with salt and pepper, add two tablespoons flour and one cup of cream gradually; stir until the sauce boils, being sure the flour is well cooked, and serve on toast.

HASHED POTATO.

Put a little butter in the bottom of the blazer and then add three cups of cold chopped potato which has already been salted. Pour over the potato a little hot stock and put some small pieces of butter over the top. Cover and cook slowly without stirring until thoroughly heated. Of course these will not be brown.

WEISH RABBIT.

Put one tablespoon butter into the blazer over the hot water pan; when melted add one-half cup beer or ale and one-half pound soft American Cheese, cut into small pieces. Mix together one-third teaspoon salt, one teaspoon mustard and a few grains paprika; add one beaten egg and mix thoroughly, and when the cheese has melted add these ingredients and let it all cook until properly thickened. Toast

bread on one side only, and serve the rabbit upon the untoasted side.

GOLDEN BUCK.

Prepare a rabbit in one chafing dish; break eggs into the blazer of another dish, in which you have boiling salted water. When the eggs are cooked and the rabbit is served on the toast, place one



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The Grand Canon of the Colorado.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MERICANS have not yet begun to appreciate the wonders and the beauties of their own country. They travel along the beaten tracks, follow the lines of railroads, and visit the cities, but few of them realize that leaving the beaten paths they may easily come upon scenes more wondrous than any to be found in the whole world. Our southwest is teeming with beauty and marvels little guessed by those hundreds of travelers who speed over the desert in railroad coaches.

There is probably nothing in the world to exceed in beauty, wonder and sublimity the trip to the Grand Canon of the Colorado. This river rises in the Rocky Mountains, and flows through Colorado and Arizona touching Utah, Nevada and California, cutting its way through strata millions of years old, until it finds the sea level in the Gulf of California.

The Grand Canon is in the northern part of Arizona and extends in a generally east and west direction. It is about sixty-five miles from the railroad at Flagstaff and is easily reached by a stage line.

The first view of this mighty chasm is truly awful. Standing upon its brink, the eye wanders first over a vast pile of mountain peaks cut into curious shapes and worn into the semblance of grotesque forms and figures. Then, as the eye becomes accustomed to the great depth, he beholds the river itself, a seemingly tiny stream, yellow as gold, and winding its tortuous way a mile and a quarter beneath its feet.

To adequately describe the Grand Canon is an utter impossibility. One can but attempt to describe its impressions upon him; but the mysterious glory, the strange sensations of insignificance which one feels can only be felt—not told. It is easy to say that the Canon is a mile and a quarter deep and from wall to wall across the top the distance is thirteen miles. That all means but little. Think rather that Mt. Washington and the whole Presidential Range might be tipped into it and leave room at the top for more; the grand cataract of Niagara could be seen only with a powerful glass if it were at the bottom, while the giant redwoods of California would appear like toy trees if viewed from the brink. The river itself is larger than the Hudson, yet it looks like a tiny brook, while on either side rise the sculptured walls—sculptured by that most wonderful of all artists—Nature, and the tool with which she worked was the most wonderful chisel the world has ever known—water.

But now let us see why this Colorado River is so strange, why it so far exceeds all other rivers in the world of wonders. In the early ages of our continent when our eastern hills were young mountains, and our western mountains were in their childhood, a great sea stretched from the Rockies to the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the slopes were sandy beaches not unlike those of New Jersey and New England today. There we find to-day the mark of the ripples of that ancient sea far up the mountain sides. Now slowly all that lake was raised, together with the mountains about it. The water drained off to the sea through the present water courses, leaving a plateau eight thousand feet above the sea level, over which to-day the sand of that ancient sea is blown into drifts and in parts of which no human being is ever seen. But as the plateau was raised the rivers must find an outlet and they cut through the solid rock keeping pace to the rising land. Then

But the river itself—that innocent-looking stream—what shall we find it like when we have climbed down those precipitous sides? Seated on its margin we find it a rushing, roaring torrent, sweeping on, in many places, more rapidly than the Rapids of Niagara and bringing with it the waste that it has torn from the mountains and which it will spread out on the shore of the Gulf.

Several times in history parties have attempted to explore the Colorado River. In 1869 Maj. Powell and his party succeeded in going down the river in boats. This expedition was attended with the greatest dangers. In many places they were swept on by the current, striking against the sharp rocks in the bed, with walls on either side so steep that it would be impossible to escape should the boats become useless.

At dawn when the rising sun dispels the mists about the temples and shrines of the Canon, or when the sunset lines touch the eastern peaks and turrets with pink and gold, the scene is one of such marvelous beauty that the soul reaches to look "through Nature to Nature's God." But it is when the white moonlight streams down into those stormy depths that the Canon takes on an atmosphere of mystery which can never be forgotten. The temples and castles of the sunlight seem tentanted with weird hosts of unknowable beings silently keeping watch and ward over this, the greatest work of our great mother—Nature.

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WITHIN THE GRAND CANON.

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MILLIONS OF CUCUMBERS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

WHERE do all the pickles come from? It is told of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes that the only criticism he made upon the manuscript of a young woman's novel which he was once so kind as to read was this admonition, written in pencil upon the margin of a page which described a picnic to which a child character went, "Don't let this child eat pickles!"

In spite of the advice of so eminent an authority, children, and grown people too, go on eating pickles. How many ever stop to wonder where the pickles come from, or to ask who raise the cucumbers packed so symmetrically into neat glass jars?

Nearly all of the pickles which the Boston market uses come from the Connecticut river valley, whose broad sunny meadows furnish just the sandy soil which seems best adapted to make cucumber vines flourish. Hail, frost, worms and low prices have driven out many of the fields of tobacco which once were a staple crop on these meadow farms, and in their place many farmers have planted cucumbers, as a quick growing substitute which yields a ready cash return. Up and down the Connecticut valley, pickle factories have taken the place of the tobacco houses in which the wilted stalks of the nicotine plant were hung to dry. In fact the pickle factory which I visited is an old tobacco house converted into this new use. Where once there were long tiers of poles on which the tobacco was hung, there are now rows of enormous tanks into each of which a hundred barrels of cucumbers can be put to pickle.

Only at this stage of their manufacture pickles are reckoned by weight and not by measure. When I was at the factory fifty tons of the year's crop of cucumbers had been taken in, but the picking of the crop had only just begun and the yield was not proving anything near an average. Sometimes, in the height of a good year's pick, thirty tons have been taken in at this factory in a single day. A hundredweight of the green fruit would count out at least a thousand cucumbers. That would be twenty thousand for a ton, and a million for fifty tons. And this is only one of many such gathering places. This factory belongs to a Boston firm. The farmers for several miles around bring their cucumbers here. The pick must be sorted into two sizes, and is brought to the factory in bags. The smaller and more valuable size includes all cucumbers under four inches long. For these the grower is paid a cent a pound. The second size includes all between four inches and five and a half inches long. The price paid for these is thirty cents a hundredweight. The farmers' wagons back up to a platform at the broad door of the factory, and unload their bags. Those containing the different sizes are weighed separately, loaded on to a little flat car and trundled on a very narrow-gauge railway back among the tanks, where the bags are emptied of their contents into the tank of their respective kind which is being filled just then. Salt is added and enough water to keep the brine of a proper strength. When a tank is filled the contents are not disturbed until wanted, and will keep for an indefinite time. Some of the tanks are still filled with a part of last year's crop, and the cucumbers in them are sound, solid and fresh looking. As fast as needed at the finishing factory of this firm, in Boston, the cucumbers are put into barrels and shipped. Many of the large ones are sold direct from the salt pickle for lunch counters, and the consumption of foreign born residents who prefer them in brine vinegar pickle. The others are sorted down more closely as to size, put into vinegar, and seasoned. The large ones are marketed in barrels; the smaller ones in glass.

Of course the income from a cucumber field does not begin to equal that from a field of tobacco, but, on the other hand, the expense and risk are not nearly so great, and the cash returns are more prompt. Most farmers who raise cucumbers put from one to three acres into the crop, which has the advantage to begin with of not requiring a heavy outlay for fertilizer. The seed is planted in hills from three to five feet apart each way, and one fork-full of dressing in a hill is all the fertilizer needed. Another advantage is that the seeds can be planted with the best results from about June tenth to June fifteenth, a time of the year when the farmer has his spring's work done and haying not begun. Planting at this time does not bring the seedlings up until the "striped bug," that dread enemy of all garden vines, is practically gone for the summer. The crop is ready to begin to harvest about August first, when haying is finished and the farmer has comparatively little work to do. The harvest lasts about six weeks. The cucumbers are picked every other day, two days serving to grow them to the most profitable length. Picking them is about as back-breaking work as can be imagined. It is neither up nor down, but a constant change from one to the other. I know, because I helped pick two acres. After the "cukes" are picked they are poured down on the grass at the edge of the field to be sorted. All that will go through a four-inch hole in a board are put into a pile by themselves. The rest are thirty-centers.

In a good year an acre of vines ought to yield a ton of cucumbers at a picking, but it is very rarely that all the conditions are favorable enough to do this. The plants need hot, moist weather, particularly at night, and many years a farmer does well who gets five hundred pounds from an acre.

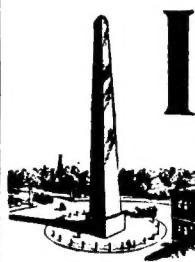
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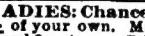


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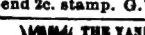
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just as the Sun went down She's a happy girl that you Mid the great fields of Virginia I don't care if you never come back A Hot time in the old town to-night When you do the rag-time dance

When you ain't got no money you needn't come around When a Nigger makes 100 Mammy's Little Pumpkin 99 goes on his back Colored Coons

The home of the girl I love She was bred in old Kentucky I love the same old Now I love my Lee (tucky) Because I love you, baby On the banks of the Wabash Get your money, world wide Our new song books contain all the above songs; also many others. We will send sample song book with one piece sheet music, catalogue of 1600 songs and our 16 page magazine 8 months, all for 10 cents. We will also send you a \$1.00 Due Bill which entitles you to \$1.00 worth of goods free from our list. This firm is reliable. Editor, Song Supply Co., 373 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



AT the LUNATION or New Moon which governs the month of April, and which occurs on the 30th day of March, at about 22 minutes past 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Washington time, the 4th degree of Virgo is rising and the 2nd degree of Gemini is overhead. Both signs are ruled by Mercury, therefore that planet is the ruler of the scheme. Unfortunately that ruler is in his detriment and retrograde besides being afflicted by Mars, which gives indications of the prevalence of some disease of an inflammatory or eruptive character which threatens a higher rate of mortality than ordinary among the people during April, and Regulus cautions his readers to have unusual care in avoiding liver and lung disorders among adults, and the eruptive diseases among children, especially in the vicinity of the 14th and 20th of the month. Particular stress is laid upon this suggestion to the soldiers and sailors in the service of the nation in our southwestern possessions. Mars gives some trouble with colonial people in the western regions and prominent officers in authority there should be particularly watchful against treachery and some violent acts of disorder. It is apprehended that more than one of our prominent officers or statesmen may suffer injury, if nothing worse, within the lunation.

Saturn on the 5th does not promise favorably for places of amusement and about the middle of the month there is danger of some bad accident injuring children or some fire or explosion in a hotel or place of entertainment by which persons are injured. Aside from the adverse indications, the figure shows many features of benevolence for the nation. The lunation falls in close harmony with the great benefic Jupiter and Herschel, showing steady general progress of the national affairs, increasing prosperity, and a more happy condition of the people.

Jupiter in the 4th and Venus in Taurus are strong testimonies of plenty of provisions and fruitfulness of the earth though Herschel interjects a caution against some unusual cold or frosts in the latter part of the month. Agriculturalists and landowners are prospered and the country as a whole continues to be favored among nations. The intellectual classes and literary interests suffer some detriment, and it is expected that one or two of our prominent men in literary circles may be called to their last home in April.

Jupiter's advent into Sagittarius relieves some of the burdens of the Spanish people, helping them in their political affairs and prospering them temporarily as a nation.

Saturn in Capricorn is unfavorable for India and Persia, and Mexico on this continent suffers some detriment during his march through that sign.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1900.

APRIL 1—Sunday. One of the favorable Sabbaths of the month; the influences being particularly conducive to religious fervor and the labors of the clergy will be very happy and effective with the aged and the laboring classes.

2—Monday. Begin this day early and let thine efforts increase as the moments advance. Urge all literary efforts and engagements; deal with printers, publishers, stationers and persons generally in the literary pursuits or those acting in fiduciary capacities. Concern thyself with officers of government, corporate bodies, and with persons engaged in matters of patent or trademark; let the artist and musician actively urge their several pursuits and let all busy themselves in matters pertaining to the articles that gratify and please mankind, either in the shape of dress or ornament, or in manufacturing such articles. The day contributes energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life, but especially for the machinist, engineer, mechanic, traveler, surgeon and military man, also all dealers in metals and cattle.

3—Tuesday. The first half of this day favors the light and elegant occupations and gives success to the efforts of the musician, artist, and decorator; the afternoon is adverse, when thou shouldst not be lavish with thy purse nor imprudent in gratifying the appetite or the tastes; make no investment for profit nor have any dealings with judges, lawyers, divines, bankers, brokers, or persons of wealth or station.

4—Wednesday. A fortunate day generally for the literary pursuits and for dealing with persons in public office; let mercantile business of all kinds be urged to the utmost.

5—Thursday. An evil day; form no hasty conclusions in business; beware of signing thy name to any writing of consequence; scrutinize signatures and be duly watchful against treachery; be not rash in thought or act; let judges and counsellors be slow in decisions, deferring judgments for a season where possible; disappointment is likely to attend the footsteps during the latter half of this day, when thou shouldst not seek any advantage from dealings with builders, contractors, real estate men, or any person engaged in the dirty or laborious avocations.

6—Friday. Seek no promotion in public positions nor offend thine employer on this day.

7—Saturday. Actively improve the moments of this day, pursuing especially transactions and dealings with mathematicians, surveyors, accountants, booksellers and stationers; favorable also for pleasure seeking, house furnishing and for all matters connected with the fine arts; also for beginning undertakings concerned with machinery; deal with cutlers, surgeons, chemists, bakers, barbers, tailors, tanners, carpenters and military men; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

8—Sunday. This day gives enjoyment from the consideration of strange and unusual subjects in religious literature.

9—Monday. Urge thy petition to public officials and seek promotion in the employment of large corporations and in ecclesiastical matters; have no dealings relating to building or to coal, lead, wool, timber, or mines.

10—Tuesday. A day to be avoided for wooing or wedding; nor is any encouragement offered for the elegant occupations; but use the late afternoon for thy dealings pertaining to houses and lands, mining properties and agricultural matters.

11—Wednesday. Be in no haste to begin the important things in thy day's labor; avoid the money-lender and be very careful in drawing thy purse-strings; do not expect any agreeable experiences in dealing with railway officials, superintendents of public works, or officers of the government.

12—Thursday. The forenoon is the best part of the day for all honorable pursuits but as the noon approaches unfavorable conditions reign for business activity; let all engaged with the pen be specially circumspect in their acts; correspondence is best deferred a few hours and all matters of writing should be carefully scrutinized; look out for fires and contention in the evening and night. Some bad explosions are due about this time.

13—Friday. The first hours of the morning are evil and ought not to be taken for any matter of magnitude when the temper will need to be bridled and rashness of act and speech wisely avoided; as the forenoon advances, however, let every energy be put forth in thy several undertakings; make beginnings in business, buy goods for trade; attend to monetary matters; deal with banks and

persons of wealth; consult judges, lawyers, and persons in ecclesiastical circles; the mid-day invites the beginning of important undertakings in the fine arts and all dealing in fancy or decorative goods or articles of dress; urge thy suit with the fair sex and make matrimonial contracts and seek pleasure from the drama or social or musical entertainment.

14—Saturday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with the utmost vigor during the forenoon; the afternoon is not so promising; let all persons born about the 24th of March, 26th of June, 1st of October, or 27th of December, of past years have care in all the affairs of their life in these passing days, avoiding all rashness of action and all chances of hurt from machinery, fire, or unruly animals; they should also be very temperate in habit and watchful of troubles with digestion or neuralgic annoyances; they should not invite litigation nor allow heat of passion of any excitement to precipitate troubles of any kind. They are likely to be very aggressive and stubborn and make many enemies needlessly.

15—Sunday. This day encourages associations with the aged and gives application and studiousness for mental engagements and for contemplation of the serious questions of life.

16—Monday. Some minor unpleasant features are indicated now in the correspondence and replies are best deferred until the morrow; let all be patient under excitement and avoid disputes and controversies.

17—Tuesday. Arise betimes and push all manner of established business, but do not make beginnings in new or important ventures; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with printers, booksellers, stationers and all engaged in literary pursuits and the ingenious occupations; do correspondence, travel and generally crowd the literary labors.

18—Wednesday. Arise early and push business to the utmost; buy goods for trade, especially hardware, machinery, cutlery, glassware and manufactured goods; Regulus points to the forenoon as one of the choice times for beginnings of undertakings concerned with manufacture and chemistry; the afternoon is less favorable after 4 o'clock, when thou shouldst not press thy suit with the fair sex nor expect much satisfaction from the social engagements or from musical or dramatic entertainments.

19—Thursday. Apply to persons in authority for favor in the afternoon and evening and urge all honorable pursuits to the utmost.

20—Friday. An evil day for most undertakings; digestive troubles and their attendant evils are increased at this time; avoid thy landlord and all those engaged in the very laborious undertakings; be watchful in the use of the pen, make no contracts nor do correspondence that can be postponed; take no action in matters of real estate or mining properties and be slow to anger in all associations.

21—Saturday. An indifferent day, giving but little promise of advantage or profit from undertakings now begun; give attention to routine matters rather than new ventures.

22—Sunday. One of the best Sabbath days of the month; especially so for the good and prosperity of church matters and for religious and moral improvement.

23—Monday. The week begins most auspiciously; choose the early hours of this day for business concerned with manufacture of woolens, machinery, hardware, chemicals and drugs; deal in articles of decoration or adornment and musical, artistic and dramatical goods. Unusual skill will be displayed in the forenoon in all musical execution, painting and in production of wearing apparel, jewelry and ornaments.

24—Tuesday. Choose this day for very important transactions concerning real estate; deal with the contractor, plumber, ship-builder, miner and the classes whose avocations are laborious; make applications for favor to persons in authority in the middle hours of the day.

25—Wednesday. Do not speculate in stocks during this day, and in commercial matters purchase only what is absolutely required to bridge over to better times; hold the purse strings securely; have no engagements with railway officials, public officers, dealers in patented articles or holders of patent-rights or copyrights; the evening is not favorable for social entertainments or musical or dramatic engagements.

26—Thursday. Give preference to the forenoon of this day for the important transactions in life, especially such as are concerned with literary and intellectual matters, educational enterprises and the doing of correspondence relating to financial and monetary affairs; but rest all such efforts as the afternoon advances, when disappointment is likely to attend the efforts; the night hours between this and the following day are peculiarly auspicious for mental labors of unusual consequence and are urged for use in forwarding all the literary ventures that the unusual time of day makes possible.

27—Friday. With caution against all undue haste as the noon hours are approached this day is superior and should be vigorously used for crowding the very important ventures; particularly those pertaining to money matters and literary undertakings; the afternoon and evening promise unusual pleasure from all things that serve to gratify mankind; seek musical and dramatical entertainments and woo the fair.

28—Saturday. An indifferent day until the noon hours, after which conditions peculiarly favor the purchase or sale of houses, lands, agricultural products and mining properties; seek favor at the hands of aged persons in the late afternoon and evening when also travel, engage the mind with ingenious things and study new ways and methods.

29—Sunday. This Sabbath day is but indifferent in promise.

30—Monday. Form no hasty conclusions in business during this day; be not rash in thought or act; keep a check upon the combative impulses and be not too ready to use the pen to oblige thyself for the benefit of others; have no surgical operation performed in the afternoon.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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The Von Mohl Co. has the sole American rights for Prof. Laborde's French preparation of "Calthos," the only remedy known to advanced medical science that will positively cure nervous debility. This remedy has for years been used as a specific in the French and German armies, and since its introduction into the United States has cured many thousands of sufferers, and the remarkable success of the remedy in Europe has been repeated in this country.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



To be a queen of song with fame and friends in two hemispheres is an enviable distinction. One of the great singers of the world is Madame Nordica, who is one of the leading sopranos in the New York season of grand opera. Madame Nordica is of pure American stock. Her real name was Lillian Norton and she was born at Farmington, Maine. Her father and mother were of the stern, old-fashioned New England type and looked upon music as a doubtful gift with a strong tendency to draw its devotees into forbidden paths. They were willing their daughter should sing in a church choir but any other use of her talent seemed to them wrong. They removed to Boston and there Nordica had her first training in vocalism. Her teacher recognized the beauty of her voice and planned that she should work incessantly until fitted to make an appearance in grand opera and then astonish the musical world by suddenly taking one of the leading positions. Three years of hard, unremitting labor followed. All the details of the art of singing were gone over again and again. Italian was studied until Nordica could sing all the principal operatic parts in that language. The hard work finally had the effect of discouraging the young girl and she half felt that her teacher had planned more than she could fulfill. A short rest gave her the needed physical rest and with returning strength came renewed hope and confidence in her own ability. Nordica came to New York and placed herself under the direction of Madame Maretzky, who had been a famous singer and who had a wide acquaintance in the musical world. Nordica commenced the study of some of the parts in grand opera and worked on for some years. Finally her teacher felt that she was ready for an engagement. Gilmore's band was giving a series of concerts in New York and to him Nordica applied for a hearing. She was asked to step up on the stage in her street dress, the band accompanied her and she sang—sang her way to an immediate engagement. She went west with Gilmore and then was given the opportunity of an European tour. She assisted as the leading soprano at seventy-eight concerts and was the first singer to be heard at the Trocadero in Paris. Gilmore grew enthusiastic over her success and predicted that her own countrymen would crown her with diamonds. This prophecy has been realized for during Nordica's last engagement in New York a magnificent diamond tiara was presented to her by the wealthy subscribers to grand opera. At the end of the tour with Gilmore, Nordica remained in Europe and made her first appearance in grand opera at Brescia. Her success was assured. After singing in various parts of Europe and after receiving a beautiful set of rubies and pearls from the subscribers to one opera season she made her first appearance in grand opera in Paris. It was as Marguerite and the Maine Marguerite won the fancy and applause of critical Paris. In the height of her triumph she married and gave up her career. Upon the death of her husband she returned to the scenes of her triumphs and finally sang in London. A little later she commenced the study of German in order to sing in Wagnerian roles. Madame Nordica says that America has many good voices but that Americans do not understand the years of drudgery necessary to fit one to be able to command one thousand dollars for half an hour's work. It is not the half hour that is represented but the half dozen years' necessary work that enables the artist to command such prices. Madame Nordica lives at the Waldorf-Astoria during the opera season. She is a personal favorite with New Yorkers who are proud that an American woman has won one of the highest positions in the world of song.

Richard Mansfield is acknowledged as a genius and he has all the eccentricities of genius. No American actor is more widely known and from none has the public grown to expect and demand more artistic work.

Mansfield frequently scolds his audiences, the press and the public generally and recently rung down the curtain because the noise of a steam pipe rasped his nerves. In spite of this he always plays to crowded houses and a new play with Mansfield as the central figure constitutes one of the most notable events of the dramatic season. Mansfield's mother was a singer of much fame and frequently appeared before the royal families of Europe. The boy was with her during his childhood and once gave an exhibition of the independence that has since marked him. A little crown prince had played a piano selection and Mansfield taking the seat the crown prince had left played the same selection in a manner that far surpassed the prince. He came to this country and for a time was a clerk in Boston. He studied painting and tried to make a living by this means in London but failure was the only result. Then he drifted, if such a term could apply to the boundless energy of the man, into a Pinafore company. In a short time he was a member of one of Mr. Palmer's companies. Suddenly one night the chance came to him to take the leading part at a moment's notice. He was the man of the hour and he succeeded. Since then he has steadily forced his way to the front. He is energy personified. He directs his own rehearsals and observes every point from scenery to expression. He often seizes the paint brush to make an alteration in scenery and coaches the actors over and over again. He advocates the idea that one can never succeed in work they do not like. He says he was a poor clerk and a starving painter but of his success at last there is no doubt. His presentation of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is one of his best parts. Beau Brummel, A Parisian Romance, The Devil's Disciple and Cyrano de Bergerac are prominent in his repertoire.

James, Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, is the second American to bear the high title and honor of Cardinal. Cardinal Gibbons is the highest officer of the Catholic church in America and is a leader

of men as well as a leader in the church. He was born in Baltimore and now at the age of sixty-five his name and fame are honors to the city of his birth. He has served in Baltimore as priest, Bishop, Archbishop and Cardinal. At the age of ten he passed some time in Ireland. In the "eighties" he was invited to Rome to take part in some important meetings of the church. From that time he was recognized as a leader of the Catholic church of America. When Cardinal McClosky died there was little doubt as to the bestowal of the "red hat." On February 10, 1886, a cablegram announced the elevation of Archbishop Gibbons to the Cardinalship. Cardinal Gibbons is a broad spirited public man, one whose opinions have weight both in and out of the pale of his church. He is a close and intelligent student of current events and intensely American in his ideas. The Cardinal is plain and democratic in all his daily life. His home is plain even to asceticism and any one can obtain an audience with the American Cardinal. He is a great walker and his tall form is familiar to all who pass through the streets of Baltimore. He wears a frock coat and carries a stout cane as he walks down Charles Street. Cardinal Gibbons is a diplomat by nature and his tact is perhaps his strongest characteristic. He has the genius for hard, unremitting labor that seems to be the possession of those who attain signal success. He has a marvelous faculty for smoothing out difficulties that fits him for a position that calls for great executive ability. All in all, America without respect to creed has reason to be proud of Cardinal Gibbons.

Mrs. Clarence Burns is a woman who would attract attention in a crowd. Tall and commanding in bearing, her bright handsome face and quiet dignity shows the earnestness of purpose that makes the woman. She looks what she is—a most intellectual woman with broad sympathies and an intelligent grasp of any topic.

Mrs. Burns is one of the three women appointed to represent the state of New York as



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Exclusively for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, in the form of baths for annoying irritations, inflammations, and chafings, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes, for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, and especially mothers, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath and nursery. No amount of persuasion can induce those who have once used it to use any other, especially for preserving and purifying the skin, scalp, and hair of infants and children. CUTICURA SOAP combines delicate emollient properties derived from CUTICURA, the great skin cure, with the purest of cleansing ingredients and the most refreshing of flower odors. No other medicated soap ever compounded is to be compared with it for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, scalp, hair, and hands. No other foreign or domestic toilet soap, however expensive, is to be compared with it for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Thus it combines in ONE SOAP AT ONE PRICE, viz., TWENTY-FIVE CENTS, the BEST skin and complexion soap, the BEST toilet and BEST baby soap in the world.

All that has been said of Cuticura Soap may be said with even greater emphasis of CUTICURA OINTMENT, the most delicate and yet most effective of emollients, and greatest of skin cures. Its use in connection with Cuticura Soap (as per directions around each package), in the "ONE NIGHT CURE FOR SORE HANDS," in the "INSTANT RELIEF TREATMENT FOR DISFIGURING ITCHINGS AND IRRITATIONS," and in "A SHAMPOO FOR FALLING HAIR, and ITCHING, SCALY SCALPS," and in many uses too numerous to mention, is sufficient to prove its superiority over all other preparations for the skin.

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commissioner at the Paris Exposition. She holds very positive opinions concerning wage earners. For nearly a year she performed the arduous duties of secretary to the commission but when the work developed so that it became necessary to give a salary for the time demanded Mrs. Burns refused to do the work saying that it should go to some self supporting person. Mrs. Burns first became identified with club work through the formation of a club for Republican women in the upper west side of New York City. The house to house work of this club in the tenement districts is well known. Mrs. Burns was its president for three years and then resigned the place after being made honorary president for life. She has been attracted to the practical side of organizations and the philanthropic movements in particular have drawn her attention and effort. She is acting vice president of the Little Mothers' Association. This association does a world of good among the poor children who are called "little mothers" because the care of the younger children of the family devolves on them. Mrs. Burns has spent her summers in the heated city planning and taking charge of out of door expeditions for these "little mothers." She has also furthered the work of the out of door playgrounds and many a forlorn little life has been brightened through her earnest desire to bring something better into the lives of the poor. The establishment of a State Industrial School for Girls is one of Mrs. Burns' pet projects and she believes in its ultimate success.

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